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THE 60s
SECRET
OF
OASIS
Caitlin Moran
PAGE 36



THE BATTLE
FOR
ENGLISH
RUGBY
PAGES 48, 49



MATTHEW
PARRIS
One in the eye
for honest
journalism
PAGE 22



TOMORROW
LIBBY
PURVES
on our
child-centred
society
weekend

35°

Nato takes tough line in Bosnia

SAS kill war crime suspect in shoot-out

By TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT



SAS soldiers shot dead an indicted war criminal and arrested another yesterday as part of a new tough stand against men accused of genocide and crimes against humanity in Bosnia.

It was the first time that troops in the Nato-led peace-keeping force had sought out wanted men and the operation, codenamed Tango, came after a clear signal from the Nato summit in Madrid on Tuesday that more determined action was needed.

Authorisation for the arrest of Simo Drijaca, the former Serb police chief of Prijedor, and Milan Kovacevic, director of the town's hospital and former mayor, had been given at the highest level. General William Crouch, American commander of the 35,000-strong Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia, contacted both Javier Solana, Nato Secretary-General, and General George Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Although the SFOR soldiers are entitled to arrest any indicted war criminals if they come across them in their normal duties, Nato sources said General Crouch had sought high-level authorisation because of the statements on war criminals made at the Madrid summit.

While Nato officials emphasised that the summit had not given SFOR commanders new orders, it was admitted that there would now be a more robust interpretation of the mandate.

The two Serbs targeted by the SAS yesterday had been secretly indicted on genocide charges by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. "Sealed indictments" passed to SFOR in Sarajevo, accuse them of war crimes

Bosnian Serb president, who is charged with genocide.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said: "I'm very proud of the performance of the British forces in this operation. They have shown very considerable courage. The use of firearms on this occasion does demonstrate the risks that they took."

However, when asked whether operations would be mounted against other people on the list of 76 wanted war criminals, he said: "Nobody knew of this operation before it took place and nobody will know of any future operation."

In a statement to MPs, the Defence Secretary George Robertson said that the Serb leaders had been left in no doubt about Nato's resolve to bring to justice those accused of "such terrible acts. We will take action as and when it is practical and sensible to do so."

The action in Bosnia had been a serious declaration of intent and all those indicted knew what they had done. He wondered how they could sleep in bed at night at all and added they would "certainly not sleep any sounder as a result of today's action".

People had suffered unimaginable horrors during the Bosnian war and British troops had served with skill and professionalism to restore some semblance of normality, Mr Robertson said.

Sir George Young, the Shadow Defence Secretary, offered full support for the action taken and Martin Bell, the independent MP who was injured while reporting in Bosnia for the BBC, said: "It's been a long time coming."

Suspects at large, page 16
Bosnia snatch, page 17
Leading article, page 23



A hunt supporter acknowledges the cheers of the demonstrators in Hyde Park

Maxwell costs hit creditors

A High Court judge described as "profoundly shocking" figures showing that all but £60,000 of the £1.68 million personal estate of the late Robert Maxwell will be swallowed up in fees.

Mir Justice Ferris said that if the sums claimed by Buchler Phillips, an insolvency firm, were paid in full, the receivership would have given creditors nothing. Page 27

TV & RADIO	50-51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	26, 52
LETTERS	23
OBITUARIES	25
MATTHEW PARRIS	22
ARTS	35-38
CHESS & BRIDGE	47
COURT & SOCIAL	24
SPORT	43-50, 52
EDUCATION	41
LAW REPORT	39

Mortgages poised to rise again as worried Bank puts up interest rates

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
NATHAN YATES
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

MILLIONS of homeowners face another rise in mortgage costs after the Bank of England increased interest rates for the third consecutive month yesterday.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who handed control of rates to the Bank shortly after the election, defended its action and other measures as necessary for an economy "in danger of becoming seriously out of balance" because of the mistakes of the Tory government.

He accused the previous administration of "negligently failing to tackle the threat of inflation".

The Bank's monetary policy committee decided to increase

rates to 6.75 per cent, with the City forecasting further increases before the end of the year.

Ashley National, which has about 1.6 million mortgage customers, immediately raised its mortgage rates by a quarter point — adding about £750 to the average £50,000 mortgage. Cheltenham & Gloucester, the home loans subsidiary of Lloyds bank, also announced it was raising its rates a quarter point.

Most of Britain's other major mortgage lenders, including the Halifax, Woolwich and Nationwide building society, resisted the temptation to follow suit, and instead placed their mortgage rates under review. But analysts expect that the reprieve could prove short-lived and that major

lenders will quickly follow

Abey's lead.

The Bank of England said it had raised the interest rate because of evidence of bounding consumer spending and higher than expected economic growth. But it expressed renewed concern over the high level of the pound — which has begun to hurt Britain's exports — saying its continuing rise had "sharpened the dilemma for monetary policy".

Businesses gave a cool response to the rate increase, arguing that it had been caused by Mr Brown's failure to hit consumers with tax rises in the Budget. Adair Turner, director-general of the Confederation for British Industry, warned against further rises sending the pound still higher. He said: "This situation must

not be exacerbated, and is itself likely to slow growth over the next year."

Mr Brown, under fire in the Commons, said: "I am not going to make the mistakes that the previous Conservative government made, of allowing inflation to get out of control and causing the instability, the volatility and the negative equity that has happened."

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, said the Conservatives had hit the inflation target in their last month in power. He blamed the Government for the situation.

The stock market shrugged off the rise, which had been widely anticipated, and dealers expect the pound to resume its rise.

Rate speculation, page 27

Neanderthal man was a dead-end

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE DNA of an extinct human species has been isolated and studied for the first time. It shows that Neanderthal Man, who flourished in Europe for more than 100,000 years, was a biological dead-end.

None of the genes in modern humans comes from the Neanderthals; nor only did they not survive as a species, they did not even manage to interbreed with the more sophisticated modern humans who lived alongside them.

Dr Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum said the finding was "a fantastic achievement", a "tour de force of genetic analysis".

Genetic marvel, page 3

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DRINKS:

Raving reviewers plan a new look at just about everything

Truly it has been said that this Government has hit the ground reviewing. A Written Answer in the Lords this week mind-boggling. Lord McIntosh listed 38 reviews announced since May 1.

There are Huge Reviews of

Absolutely Everything. "A

comprehensive spending re-

view" on every aspect of

spending. "A strategic defence

review" covers all aspects of

defence. All aspects of trans-

port are covered in "a funda-

mental review of transport

policy"; aid strategy is to be reconsidered in *totum* in a review of international development; "a review of the tax benefits system" is wide-ranging; "a review of the post office" rules nothing out — like "a review of the economic regeneration of Wales."

But most all-embracing of all is the White Paper "on better Government.

For those who like their reviews more sharply focused, however, the Government offers a review "of the law relating to silicone breast im-

plants". There are also reviews on surrogacy, "the bureaucratic burden on teachers," and "the breast cancer screening service in Devon".

Admission charging by national museums forms the subject of its own review. indeed, nothing is too specific — neither the Skye Bridge tolling arrangements, the National Lottery, the London health services nor "the arrangements for celebrating the Millennium" have escaped the review-hunters. Per-

haps the motto of New Labour should be "seek out and review" in the Latin "Quae rere et inspice"; or, to adapt Che Guevara's "La lucha continua" (the struggle goes on), can I propose "La revision continua"?

La revision includes "a bus review," "Scottish enterprise review," and review of "film

policy". Reviewing film policy, Mr Blair's team must not be distracted by a review of the Scottish roads programme, Crown Prosecution Service, "private finance machinery," arrangements for enforcing the rules on the welfare of animals exported live to the continent, and "a review of steps to strengthen

the democratic control of the three public water authorities in Scotland."

Puzzling to the army of review-spotters now gathered with their Thermos flasks in corridors at Westminster is the emergence of the "fundamental review." How is a fundamental review distinguished? How about the "strategic review" of roads, for instance, the "special review" (or Social Fund appeals), the "careful review," the "thorough review," or the "continuing review". Then there are

the "task forces" like the one on Youth Justice. Are these reviews?

I mentioned a few of the 38

reviews Lord McIntosh ad-

mits to. But I have done my

own research. He seems to

have omitted reviews an-

nounced in the Commons

into Educational SSAs, ener-

gy saving, eye tests, VED,

petrol prices, Scottish Hous-

ing, immigration policy, "in-

ternal migration," unemploy-

ment figures, "the system of

justice," mental health, North-

ern Ireland shops, pesticides,

pensions, piloting, depart-

mental publications, Parlia-

mentary privilege, policing

objectives, quangos, service

properties, student benefits,

asylum, water abstraction li-

censing, water charging and

smoking in the House of

Commons.

So it is with amazement that

we observe minister Mark

Fisher kicking the habit in

just one case as the Govern-

ment has no plans to review

the concessionary television

licensing fee regulations. What

went wrong?

MATTHEW PAGETTE

POLITICAL SKETCH

Defeated Tory ministers turn down peerages

Andrew Pierce on hopes of a Commons comeback

FOUR Tory Cabinet ministers who lost their seats at the general election have turned down the offer of life peerages in John Major's resignation honours list.

The rejection of ennoblements by Michael Portillo, Michael Forsyth and Malcolm Rifkind suggests that they still nurture hopes of a return to politics at the highest level. They have all been tipped as future Tory leaders and are expected to stand for safe Tory seats at the next general election or in a winnable by-election closer to polling day.

William Waldegrave, the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has also intimated to Mr Major that he would prefer to return to the Commons than go to the Lords.

Norman Lamont, another casualty of the Tory rout on May 1, is thought to have rejected the chance of elevation to the Upper House so that he can rebuild a career in the Commons. The former Chancellor of the Exchequer, who disappeared in boundary changes, fought Harrogate, losing it to the Liberal Democrats. He had been expected to stand in the contest to succeed Mr Major as Tory leader, on a ticket of withdrawal from the European Union.

David Mellor, the former Heritage Secretary, is thought

to be on the resignation honours list.

Many Tories will be relieved that three of the party's biggest hitters, who are young enough to make a Commons comeback, have decided to keep their options open. Mr Portillo, 44, Mr Forsyth, 42, and Mr Rifkind, 51, were soundly beaten by Mr Major when he drew up his list after resigning as Tory leader. But none of them is in a rush to return to Westminster.

Mr Waldegrave, 50, who was also approached by Mr Major, also cherishes the hope of playing a frontline role in the Commons. He will serve him during his six-and-a-half years as Prime Minister. He will abide by convention and publish a similar number of honours to his predecessors. There are expected to be eight or nine peerages on the list.

Mr Portillo, the former Defence Secretary, and Mr Forsyth, who was Scottish Secretary, helped to persuade wavering MPs to support Mr Hague in the last 24 hours of the leadership contest.

The Major list, which will be published at the end of the month or early in August, will include peerages for at least three Cabinet ministers who lost their seats on May 1. Roger Freeman, who was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Tony Newton, the

former Leader of the Commons, and Ian Lang, the former President of the Board of Trade, have all intimated to the former Prime Minister that they regard their Commons career at an end.

While Tony Blair has ruled that future honours lists will not include political honours, there has been a long-standing convention that Cabinet ministers who retire or lose their seats are elevated to the Lords.

The names on Mr Major's resignation honours list are entirely of his own choice. He will also reward loyal aides and Downing Street staff who served him during his six-and-a-half years as Prime Minister. He will abide by convention and publish a similar number of honours to his predecessors. There are expected to be eight or nine peerages on the list.

Downing Street confirmed last night that 25 to 30 Labour working peers would be announced at the same time. The Liberal Democrats will also have about a dozen new peers.

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A SCHOOLGIRL injured in the coach crash in the French Alps yesterday described how she had tried to save her best friend, who died in the accident.

Laura England, 15, was one of a group of staff and pupils from St James's School in Farnworth, near Bolton, on the coach when it plunged 60ft down a ravine in the Haute Savoie region. She was thrown 40ft from the bus, but managed to climb back up to her friend, Nicola Moore, despite having two fractured vertebrae.

"Nicola was not breathing and her heart had stopped, but I decided I had to help her, so I tried to open her airways," said Laura, speaking from the Royal Bolton

Hospital where she is being treated for her injuries. "I tipped her head back and was about to start mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when the instructions came and took over. I held her hand and told her that I loved her and her mum and dad loved her and all her friends loved her, and I prayed she would be alright."

Nicola, 15, died in the crash.

with 14-year-olds Keith Ridding and Robert Boardman. Laura said she and another friend had decided to plant a tree in memory of Nicola.

Laura described how she was thrown through the window when the coach suddenly left the road: "I was rolling down the hill and I could see the coach rolling after me. It stopped but I carried on and ended up on a ledge."

She immediately tried to help Keith, who was the first person she came to. "I held his hand and I could feel he had a pulse and I rolled him onto the recovery position."

"I was the only person there and they all needed help so I had to do something. If someone else had been there they would have done the same."

DOCTORS sometimes need to stretch diagnostic definitions when describing a patient's condition on a sick note. The person whose pressure of work or family commitments has finally brought him to his knees will probably find the doctor sympathetic. The patient's condition may be described on the certificate as anxiety, depression, insomnia, neurosis, or if the doctor has an elastic conscience, even backache.

Difficulties arise when a patient, who may have a different criterion for unbearable stress to that of the doctor, decides that they need a rest from their intolerable life, or it is time for a family holiday. Patients in these circumstances may bluntly demand a medical certificate, or may even stride into the surgery and announce with a wink: "It's my back again, doctor."

Sore throats, painful knees, headaches, dyspepsia, diarrhoea and palpitations are frequently offered as excuses for time off and, unfairly, backache is so often quoted as the cause that the many thousands who suffer from genuine backache feel slighted. From the patient's point of view, all these problems have

the advantage that it is difficult to check on the validity of the symptoms.

But doctors are not employed to provide additional leave for their patients' family holidays and certainly not to intervene in industrial disputes. It is most unlikely that any reputable doctor would confirm a BA cabin crew's assumed illness as being genuine, so as to allow them to abstain in the current dispute with their management.

If the crew member is away for only two or three days at a time confirmation may not be necessary, but if a medical certificate was requested it would be an unwise doctor who signed it without good evidence of physical disease.

Even if it was accepted by the authorities that the doctor was not being deliberately dishonest they could find themselves defending their diagnosis before a hard-nosed inquiry.

Meanwhile, Sir Colin Marshall intervened publicly for the first time to blame the dispute on rivalry between the striking British Airline Stewards and Stewardesses Association (Bassa) and Cabin Crew 93, which broke away from Bassa eight years ago.

Sir Colin claimed Bassa had taken or warned of strike action in 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995 and 1997. "No other union or group of employees have acted in this way. We have got to find a way of sorting that out."

Union leaders will decide their next move tomorrow.

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Union leaders will decide their next move tomorrow.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

and Ulster, page 22.

John Lloyd on Tony Blair

and Ulster, page 22.

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and Ulster, page 22.

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and Ulster, page 22.

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and Ulster, page 22.

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John Lloyd on Tony Blair

and Ulster, page 22.

John Lloyd on Tony Blair

and Ulster, page 22.

John Lloyd on Tony Blair

and Ulster, page 22.

John Lloyd on Tony Blair

and Ulster, page 22.

John Lloyd on Tony Blair

It everything

THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 11 1997

HOME NEWS 3

Neanderthal Man bears no relation to us

DNA testing has come up with an evolutionary dead end. We are all out of Africa, Nigel Hawkes reports

A BREAKTHROUGH in genetic analysis has shown that modern human beings are not descended from Neanderthal Man. It proves the contention that Neanderthal Man was an evolutionary dead end.

Although he lived alongside modern human beings' ancestors for thousands of years, there appears to have been no inter-breeding. When the Neanderthals died out about 30,000 years ago, they left no descendants.

For the first time, scientists have managed to extract DNA from a sample of Neanderthal bone and compared the sequences with those of modern human beings and chimpanzees. The results, published in the journal *Cell*, show large differences between modern man and the Neanderthals.

Dr Svante Pääbo, of the University of Munich, the team leader, says this means that they cannot be closely related. It also supports the notion that while Neanderthals were evolving in Europe, modern man first appeared in Africa, migrating to Europe and displacing the Neanderthals.

Dr Chris Stringer, of the Natural History Museum in London, saluted the finding as "a fantastic achievement". He



A replica of the skeleton tested for DNA. Bone samples were taken from the upper arm

had been trying to do the same thing, in co-operation with Dr Bryan Sykes at Oxford University. "It's marvellous that somebody has achieved it, and I have found nobody in the scientific community who doubts the result," he said.

The bone samples, weighing 3.5 grams, were taken from the upper arm of the original specimen of Neanderthal Man, found in the Neander Valley, near Düsseldorf in Germany, in 1856. It took the team several years to get permission to take the sample from the bone, which is kept in a museum in Bonn.

They first checked to see



Dr Svante Pääbo explaining that Neanderthal Man died out in Europe as modern man's ancestors came out of Africa. "We are all Africans in disguise, so to say"

how far the bone had decayed, by measuring changes in amino acids. This convinced them that there might be sufficient DNA. Using methods to amplify the tiny fragments they recovered, they were eventually able to build up a sequence of 378 DNA bases of mitochondrial DNA — the commonest type in cells, and thus the easiest to recover from ancient specimens. This is about one fortieth of the entire mitochondrial DNA sequence.

They then compared this to sequences from modern human beings and chimpanzees. Mitochondrial DNA is passed down unchanged from mothers to their children, so remains the same over many generations. The only changes that take place are random mutations. This means that all today's human beings have very similar sequences, differing in this region in only eight or so places out of 378.

The Neanderthal DNA differed from the human at 27 places, while chimp DNA differed at 55 places. This means that the Neanderthals are a distinct species and rules out interbreeding — at least in the case of this particular Neanderthal specimen.

Because mitochondrial DNA mutates at a known speed, it is possible to plot back and work out when the two gene sequences diverged. The team suggest that this was about 600,000 years ago. Neanderthals and modern human beings had a common ancestor who was living then. This ancestor was most likely *Homo heidelbergensis*, a hominid found in many

places, including Boxgrove in West Sussex. The implication is that this species evolved into Neanderthal Man in Europe, but into *Homo sapiens* in Africa. Later, *Homo sapiens* migrated out of Africa and eventually replaced Neanderthal Man in Europe.

"We are all Africans in disguise, so to say," Dr Pääbo said yesterday, "and that's a finding of major importance."

Dr Stringer, who has long argued in favour of the "out of Africa" hypothesis, is delighted to have it confirmed. He said that the same technique should be applied to Neanderthal fossils from other places — China, Java, and Australia — to see if it confirms the finding.

While Neanderthal is still used as a term of abuse, the old image of a stumbling, stooping heavyweight with his knuckles trailing on the ground has been refined by recent studies. "Neanderthals were human beings," Dr Stringer said. "Their brains were as big as ours; in fact slightly bigger. They walked

upright, they hunted, they made tools."

What they seem to have

lacked was the magic ingredient in human evolution: culture. They did not paint and probably did not speak. Their stone tools remained unchanged for tens of thousands of years, and only developed after they came into contact with modern human beings and began to copy more sophisticated designs.

The Bonn skeleton is of unknown age; it has never been carbon-dated and came from a quarry which provided no stratigraphic date. But Dr Stringer guesses it must be around 30,000 years old. The oldest DNA that is generally accepted came from a mammoth fossil 100,000 years old, but that had been preserved in the Siberian permafrost.

Two factors may have made it possible to get the DNA from the Bonn bone. First, it was found fairly far north, so may be better-preserved than bones from hotter places such as Israel, which yielded no DNA. And when it was conserved by the museum it was covered in varnish, something no modern museum would do.

This may have prevented the interior of the bone from becoming contaminated with modern human DNA by handling.



Impression of a Neanderthal family group outside Gorham's Cave, Gibraltar

Churchgoing policeman blackmailed prostitutes

By A STAFF REPORTER

A "CRAFTY and unprincipled" police sergeant who posed as a vice squad chief to blackmail two prostitutes was jailed for eight years yesterday.

Ian Vale, churchgoer and father of two, manipulated police investigations so that one of his victims would not be prosecuted. He also arranged for some of Shirley Campbell's whips and canes, seized during a police raid, to be returned so that she could continue making money.

The prostitute told Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, that she had feared for her life at Vale's hands. She gave an initial £5,000 "protection money" during a brief meeting in a side-room at Kensington police station. She also recalled him telling her that all the local "working girls" gave him money regularly.

Vale, 37, of Claygate, Surrey, looked stunned as the jury returned majority guilty verdicts. Passing sentence, Judge Christopher Hordern, QC, said that he had taken advantage of his position "to blackmail extremely vulnerable people".

Vale will be dismissed from the force. He was convicted of three counts of blackmail between March 1993 and March 1994. The jury acquitted him of



Vale demands for cash were tape-recorded

Detective accused of M25 tip-off resigns

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DETECTIVE who was arrested for allegedly tipping off the fugitive Kenneth Noye has resigned from the police force.

Detective Constable Charlie Bateman was arrested in April for allegedly passing on information about the police investigation into a "motorway road rage" killing on the M25.

He was suspended on full pay from his plainclothes job at Sevenoaks police station, Kent.

A Kent police spokesman confirmed that the 40-year-old officer had handed in his notice just over a week ago. He said: "An investigation into the allegations will continue and he must report back at the end of every month to the investigating officers."

DC Bateman and his partner, WPC Tracey McCabe, received certificates of merit last autumn after they spotted a stolen car which led to the recovery of stolen property, a double-barrel shotgun and ammunition.

The couple, who live in Kemsing, Kent, have a three-month-old baby.



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Teacher 'sacked for exposing abuse'

By TIM JONES

A TEACHER at the Royal Ballet School claimed yesterday that her career was ended prematurely in a "brutal dismissal" because she spoke out about the abuse of pupils.

Linda Goss, 44, who taught at the £20,000-a-year boarding school for eight years, said: "It was my life. I still cannot believe the way I was treated."

Ms Goss, a former dancer and teacher with the Bolshoi Ballet, alleged that she was demoted and made to teach junior pupils at the school in Richmond, west London, when she claimed that pupils were being bullied by staff or other children.

She told an industrial tribunal in Croydon that her fears had been corroborated by some parents who answered a questionnaire from Rich-

mond council's social services department. Ms Goss said she made her concerns known when she was interviewed as part of another internal inquiry carried out by the school's board of governors. "I felt the children were overworked and there was inadequate attention to healthcare and nourishment," she said.

Ms Goss, from Dartmouth, Devon, is claiming unfair dismissal and sexual discrimination. She said her first intimation that her job was at risk came when Dame Merle Park, 59, had criticised her in front of Japanese visitors to the school. She thought that had been cleared up after Dame Merle had met her and had been extremely complimentary, describing her as one of the best teachers in the school. But, she said, she was shocked when she was told she would be expected to teach

first-year boys and second-year girls instead of more senior classes.

In January 1996, she said, Dame Merle told her her services were no longer required. "I asked why she had chosen me and she said it was because of restructuring. She said I was a good teacher and no one need know my contract had not been renewed. She said she would help me to find another job. She was kind but resolute."

Ms Goss, who has been a teacher for the past 25 years, said that since leaving the school she had been unable to find work.

Earlier Dame Merle said she had been unaware of abuse to any of the 245 pupils. "We are extremely anti-bullying and we jump on it quite quickly." She said a routine inspection by Richmond social services had found the school to be "happy". The hearing continues.

THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 11 1997

is bigote.
Bill might not
given support

Three held over death of friend on holiday island

BY LIN JENKINS

THREE friends of the Briton who fell to his death from a hotel balcony in the Spanish holiday resort of Ibiza were yesterday arrested. Police, who now believe that Jamie Morgan may have been murdered, also began to trace British tourists who were at his hotel.

Holiday companies throughout Britain are being contacted by officers from Devon and Cornwall Police, who want to trace people staying at the Hotel El Moro in San Antonio or nearby.

It was initially thought that Mr Morgan, 22, from Barnstaple in north Devon, had fallen by accident from the third-floor balcony of the apartment he was sharing with three childhood friends at 6am on June 23 after an all-night drinking spree. It was the first day of his holiday.

Detective Superintendent Mike Stephens said yesterday: "We have new evidence which has come to us. We are investigating a death which gives us reason to suspect it may be foul play. Obviously we want to speak to people who actually saw Jamie fall to

his death or any witnesses to the incident who were at the scene afterwards."

He added: "The Spanish authorities carried out an investigation which was co-ordinated by an examining judge. They are satisfied that the English police can continue with the inquiry. We have authority to investigate any suspicious death of a British subject abroad."

Mr Morgan had gone on holiday with Stephen Gage, Russell Braund and Jason Barrow, all of whom are aged 23 and live in Barnstaple.

Yesterday police were holding them separately for questioning.

Results of a post-mortem examination carried out in Ibiza have yet to reach police investigating Mr Morgan's death. A second examination has been carried out at North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple. It and the arrests came after a visit earlier this week by Detective Inspector Bill Harvey and a colleague to the Mediterranean holiday island.

Mr Stephens said that 180 British people were staying at



Jamie Morgan, who died on a holiday with three friends. His mother, Susan Godfrey, paid for the trip.

Popular novelist found dead in stream

BY ROBIN YOUNG

ALEXANDER CORDELL, 82, a popular novelist, has been found dead in a stream, clutching family photographs.

Mr Cordell's body is thought to have lain at the Horseshoe Pass, above Llangollen, Wrexham, for some time before it was discovered on Wednesday night.

Mr Cordell wrote more than 30 books, including *Rape of the Fair Country*. His titles sold more than three million copies, and many were translated for publication abroad.

He was born in Ceylon and educated in China. He had a career in the Civil Service before moving to north Wales to write about the Gresford Colliery disaster of 1934, in which 265 men were killed. Many of his books were about the exploitation and miseries of Wales.

Twice a widower, Mr Cordell had recently been something of a recluse, though three years ago he threw his weight behind a campaign against open-cast mining in Wales.

Police said the death is not being treated as suspicious.

Gang seizes banker's Rolex and his Ferrari

AN ARAB banker was beaten with an iron bar in a London street by a gang of robbers who stole his Rolex watch and his Ferrari.

Police believe the attack was one of a growing number of copycat thefts carried out by opportunists alerted to an easy crime by publicity.

The victim does not want his identity disclosed, and there has been no appeal for witnesses since he does not want to reveal where the attack took place. "Publicity would be beneficial in tracking down the culprits, but the victim does not want it," police said.

The man was beaten as he tried to resist the thieves when parking his £140,000 red car in Chelsea on Sunday. Three people drew up in a black BMW and ripped the £20,000 Rolex watch from him, causing fractures to his hand and wrist. His car was stolen as he lay on the pavement.

There have been many such attacks on wealthy people in London in recent months. Police, who are not linking the crimes, believe that several gangs are responsible. A specialist team has been deployed to detect suspects.



British model Karen Elson as the bride in black

Lagerfeld yields to call of the wild

FROM HEATH BROWN
IN PARIS

ON THE final day of the haute couture collections in Paris, Karl Lagerfeld presented a Nordic theme for Chanel. True to his Germanic roots, Lagerfeld gave his models wild Wagnerian locks to offset dramatically simple clothes.

Influences, we were told, range from 15th-century Swedish cavaliers to the Danish writer Karen Blixen. That translated as ankle-length skirts in rough-textured tweed, slim-cut cassock-style frock coats and tulle-enshrouded evening wear — all in the smoky colours of a stormy Scandinavian sky.

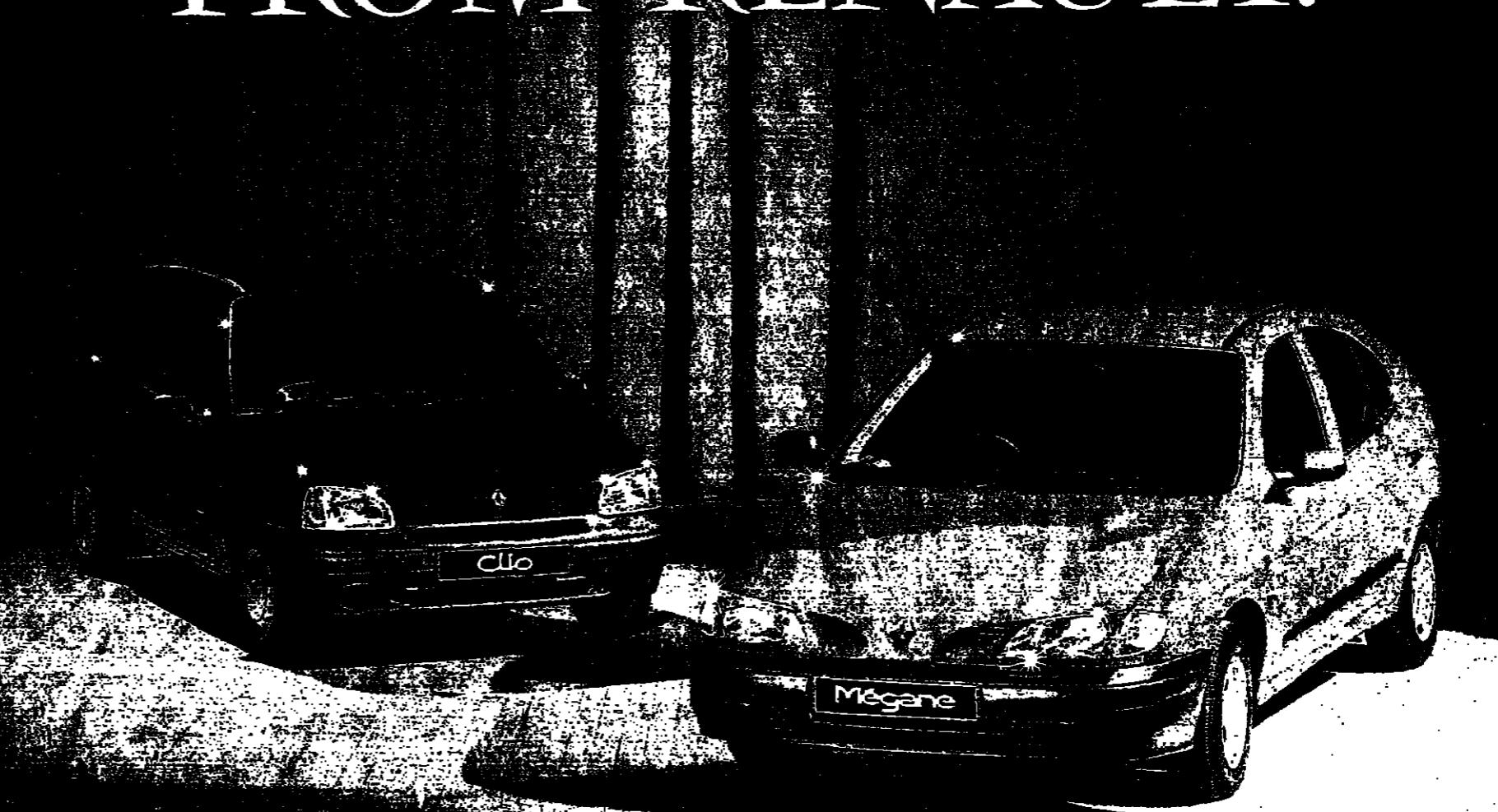
Christian Lacroix's presentation was the usual multicoloured fantasy we have come to expect but, though less garish than usual, full of energy and eccentricity.

The collections ended late with Thierry Mugler's supersexy creations.



Simple dress, wild locks, by Lagerfeld for Chanel

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10

Jaguar Privilege example: XJ Sport 3.2 automatic (10,000 miles per annum). On the road price: £34,631.74^{**} Deposit (30%): £10,390.12. Balance: £24,241.62. Optional final purchase payment: £25,000.00. Total monthly payments: £4,476.12. Total amount payable: £39,110.12. Term (months): 25. Monthly payments (x24): £25,000.

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Prince William yawns during the Duke's wedding

Law chief faces challenge over civil court fees

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor is under pressure from the legal profession to rescind civil court fee increases of up to 150 per cent and exempt all those on low incomes.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, will face hard questioning in the House of Lords next week in a debate on the fees, which were increased under the previous government without any parliamentary debate. Peers led by the former law lord, Lord Ackner, will ask Lord Irvine what steps the Government intends to take to protect the right of access to the courts for those on low incomes.

Lord Ackner said: "The former government's actions dealt a constitutional blow for access to justice. In seeking to make the Court Service fully self-financing, it rode roughshod over an important constitutional principle, that is, the Government's duty to provide affordable access to the courts as a precursor of the right to a fair trial."

The increases, which came into force in January, also brought in some new fees. The Bar, Law Society and Legal Action Group have consistently criticised the increases, which are aimed at recovering an extra £50 million a year.

Law report, page 39

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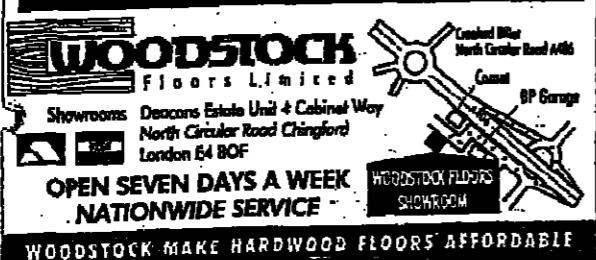
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Weddings no place for children, says minister

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A CLERGYMAN wants to exclude young children from weddings because he says they misbehave and trivialise the marriage vows.

The Rev Ian Gregory, a Congregationalist minister, said: "Little boys and girls can be a thorough distraction and destroy the wedding. It is not a ban, but I tell parents I would prefer children under 8 not to be there. They can scream as much as they like at the reception."

"I am fed up of seeing little children dressed up like fairies or as page boys with no idea how to behave in a church. I am sick of waiting for the parents to take control. Instead they just seem happy to let them run riot."

Even royal children have misbehaved at weddings. Five hundred million television viewers saw Prince William, then four, stick his tongue out at a bridesmaid during the Duke and Duchess of York's wedding at



Mr Gregory, and children on the palace balcony after the Yorks' wedding in 1986

Westminster Abbey in 1986. Some churches are seeing a fall in the number of weddings since secular venues were licensed for marriages. Discouraging children could cause numbers to decline further.

Mr Gregory, founder of the Campaign for Courtesy, formerly the Polite Society, is a minister in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. He said: "I did a wedding recently where halfway through the vows, a child got up onto the

pulpit with a collection pot on his head and was sneering at everybody. There have been situations when I have had to stop the service and ask someone to remove the child. I am not prepared to see what should be the most important day of people's lives turned into a fiasco."

Other clergy were surprised by his outburst, which comes at a time when all denominations are trying to attract young people to stem the decline in congregations.

The Rev Michael Ainsworth, of St Martin's in Worsley, Manchester, said: "Adults can behave worse, gazing around and talking. Children belong in church. They are part of the household of God."

The Rev Roy Allen, 54, of St Leonard's in Marston Green, Birmingham, said: "Often the people at weddings are those who seldom come to church, so we want to make them welcome. Fortunately I have a big voice so I can shout over the top of the children."



The Duchess's half-sister, Alice Ferguson, tires too

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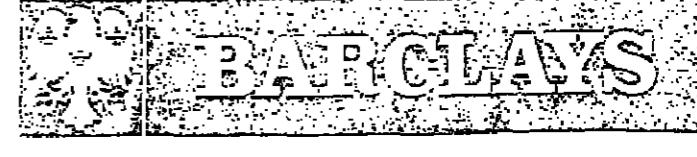
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BARCLAYS 30 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	£100,000+ £50,000+ £25,000+ £10,000+ £1,000+	5.10 5.00 4.90 4.65 3.60
QUARTERLY INCOME OPTION		
BARCLAYS INSTANT SAVINGS ACCOUNT	£25,000+ £10,000+ £2,000+ £500+ £100+	4.05 3.85 3.50 3.20 0.75
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An important message to all our customers.

Friday 11th July

We regret that today's British Airways flights will be disrupted due to industrial action.

We can confirm that, as a minimum, the following services will operate as normal:

- All flights to and from regional airports - Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh & Glasgow (except those to and from London Heathrow).
- All domestic & European flights to and from London Gatwick.
- The following franchise & Alliance operated flights:

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BA6700-6749

BA6800-6999
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BA7600-7949

BA8000-8199
BA8200-8299
BA8300-8450

BA8700-8839
BA8840-8899

- Approximately 50% of intercontinental services to and from London Heathrow.
- Approximately 40% of intercontinental services to and from London Gatwick.
- Approximately 30% of European and domestic services to and from London Heathrow.

In addition, we will endeavour to operate as many further services as possible.

Saturday 12th July and Sunday 13th July

On these days some flights will also be affected whilst we return to normal service.

For further information on these and other flights not listed above, either:

1. contact your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop
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4. or call our information line 0800 727 800.

We would like to offer our sincerest apologies to any customers who are being inconvenienced by the current action. Rest assured that we are doing all that we can to keep disruption to a minimum and most importantly to bring this dispute to a satisfactory conclusion as soon as possible. If your flight is affected, we will endeavour to organise alternative travel arrangements for you to reach your destination.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Brown's haste creates danger of bad tax law

ON POLITICS

THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 11 1997

HOME NEWS 11

Salmon spotted in Kent river cleaned of sewage

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SALMON have been found in the Medway for the first time in more than a hundred years, a sign of their remarkable recovery across Britain.

Conservationists and officials at the Environment Agency said yesterday that clean-up campaigns on many rivers were beginning to pay off. Salmon are returning to the Trent in significant numbers and are being seen in the Tees, Tyne, Humber and Ebro.

The agency's northeastern office said that a salmon was spotted on the River Don, near Doncaster, last year. "Our staff could not believe it was real," a spokeswoman said. "But the fact that it has survived is a testimony to how once heavily polluted rivers are getting cleaner."

The salmon, discovered in the Medway, in Kent, was just below Allington lock, north of Maidstone. Until recently the river was heavily polluted by sewage and discharges from paper mills.

"The salmon weighed 10lbs and was in beautiful condition," a spokesman for the agency's southern region said. "Its mate, estimated to be a 12lb to 15lb fish, leapt into the air, circled, and swam off down river at top speed." The last official confirmation of salmon in the Medway was in the 1880s.

John Cave, the agency's Kent area fisheries scientist, said: "The return of salmon is

indicative of environmental improvements because the species requires good quality water in which to thrive."

Chris Pougard, of the Salmon and Trout Association, said that the salmon may have spawned in the Thames. Salmon were first seen returning to the Thames in 1974 and great efforts have been made to allow the salmon to get over locks and weirs to spawning grounds.

At the moment, returning salmon in the Medway are unlikely to raise young. In the past they would have been able to reach the river's headwaters, which run into East Sussex. But locks and other barriers now bar their path.

Later yesterday the female salmon which had been spotted was found dead.

The agency is to look at ways of making it easier for Medway salmon to spawn.

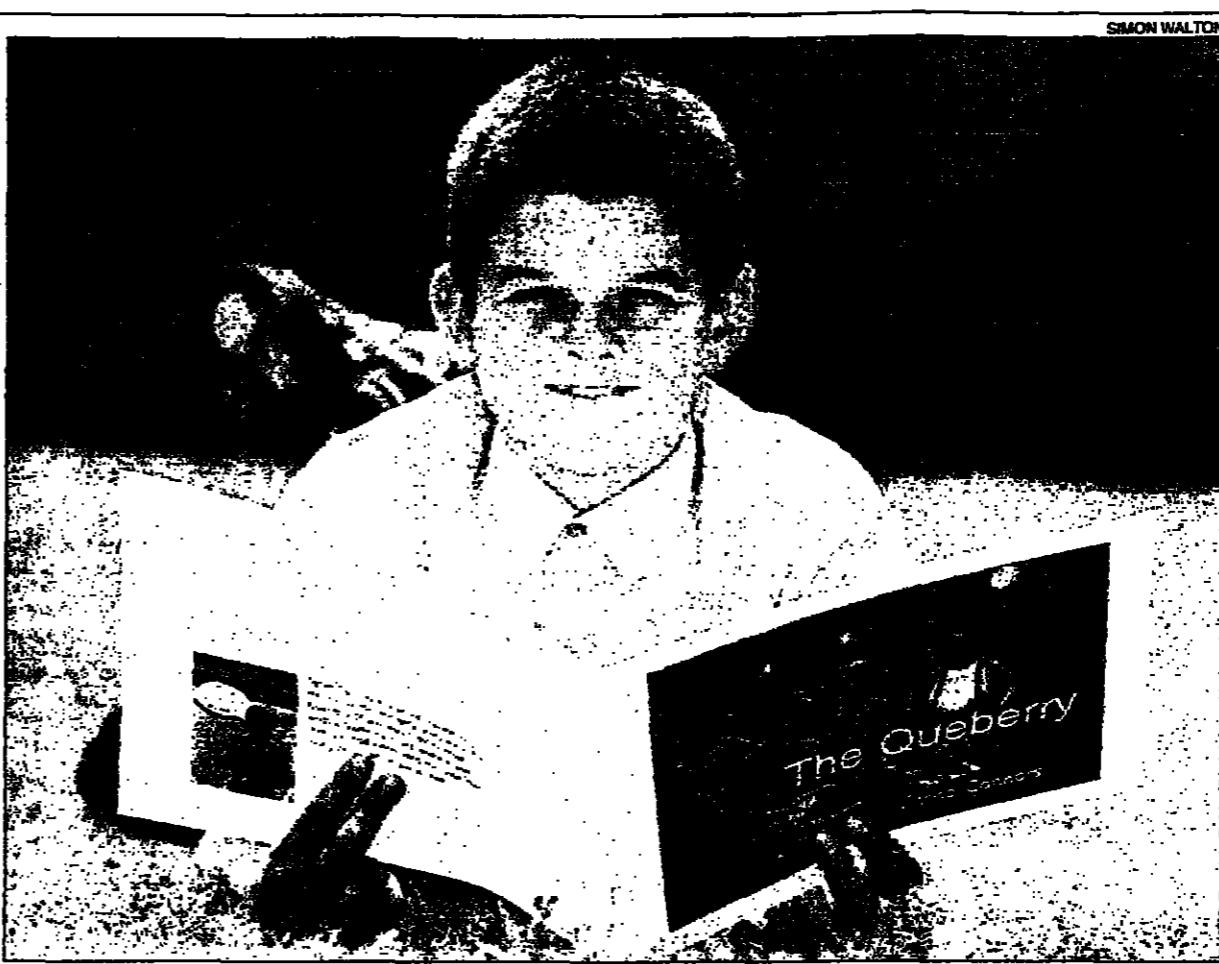
Cleaning estuaries in other areas of Britain that were

heavily polluted by industry is also boosting fish populations. Salmon are being seen in the Swale and Ure in Yorkshire, following a clean-up of the Humber. A spokesman for the agency's northwest region said yesterday that salmon had been confirmed in the Calder in Lancashire for the first time in years. Experts say that the next big river where salmon could return is the Mersey where strenuous efforts are under way to clean up decades of pollution.

Other rivers witnessing a return of salmon since the early 1980s are the Taff and the Rhymney, which meet the sea at Cardiff. The Taff used to run black with coal dust during heavy rain. The Ebro, whose mouth is at Newport, saw salmon return in the early 1990s. It used to be so polluted by a steelworks that it ran red.

However, some rivers that once had good salmon stocks are seeing a decline in numbers, because the gravel beds in which salmon spawn have silted up. Researchers have linked the damage to urbanisation of the countryside, so that rain, instead of soaking into the soil, is swept off roads and concrete, washing mud into waterways. Farmers also now plough fields up to the edges of rivers, and so more mud and silt is washed off the land and there is greater erosion of the river bank.

Jacob Connors, 10, who has a reading age of 5. His book is being used in schools and is to go on sale



By PAUL WILKINSON

JACOB CONNORS has had his first book published at the age of 10, even though he can barely read or write. He dictated his fantasy story, *The Queberry*, into a tape recorder and it was transcribed by his teacher.

The book tells the story of underworld creatures called quebberries. They are fat with long, pointed chins and banana-shaped arms, and have a habit of flicking half-eaten sausages at people.

Jacob, from Bradford, who has the reading ability of a

five-year-old, got his inspiration while camping with his family. Soon afterwards his teacher at Gregory Middle School asked him to go through an alphabet naming an animal beginning with each letter.

When he got to Q he said queberry. The teacher asked for more details and was so impressed by the story Jacob recounted that she persuaded Bradford City Council's education department to publish it, with the aid of grants from the Department for Education and Employment and the European Union. Copies, price £3.50, are available from the education department and are to go on sale in book shops in Bradford. Schools in the area are using the book in language development classes.

Jacob said: "I can't wait to see the book on sale in the shops. I'm getting much better at reading and writing now. I like telling stories and I'd love to write for a living when I'm older."

John Flockton, his head teacher, said: "Jacob has struggled with reading and writing since he joined us nearly two years ago. Seeing his story in print has boosted his confidence no end."

Rail firms are given ultimatum to improve helplines

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL companies will today be given 28 days to improve telephone inquiry services or face fines running into hundreds of thousands of pounds. John Swift, the rail regulator, yesterday criticised the train operators for failing to make lasting improvements in the service in April. He also cast doubt on the train companies' ability to stick to their promise that they will meet targets of answering nine out of ten calls over the next four weeks.

The inquiry service has been heavily criticised since it was set up last year. At times barely half of the five million calls each month have been answered and Mr Swift has demanded that changes are made by August 3.

The 13 train operating companies running 28 franchises will be sent an enforcement order today instructing them to answer nine out of ten calls or face heavy fines. A sliding scale of fines will be imposed for every percentage point they fall below 90 per cent. If the companies hit 89 per cent, they face a collective fine of £50,000. If they fall to 74 per cent, they will have to pay a £1.45 million penalty. Train operators say they have appointed hundreds of extra staff to ensure an improved service but they admit that the 90 per cent target will be hard to meet.

Mr Swift is concerned at the inconsistent information given by the inquiry service and at local stations. Results are expected shortly from a survey in which 5,000 inquiries were made on timetable and fare information. Mr Swift said the level of calls answered had been improving until April, when it dipped to 51 per cent. In May the figure was 65 per cent but it dropped again to 55 per cent last month.

The Association of Train Operating Companies had said it was on target to reach the required standards within weeks but Mr Swift said: "I hope this proves to be true... but I have yet to be convinced that these estimates are robust."

Boy's fantasy tale becomes reality

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Letters, page 23

City commentary, page 20

ITV poaches Capital Radio boss to win back missing viewers

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

ITV has poached Richard Eyer, the most successful figure in commercial radio, to be its chief executive in an attempt to reverse its declining ratings and restore the confidence of its paymasters, the advertisers.

The appointment will catapult Mr Eyer, who has run Capital Radio for nearly six years, to the top of Britain's biggest television organisation as it faces challenges from Channel 5 and the impending launch of scores of digital channels. He will be paid about £500,000 a year. His first task

will be to create a strengthened and centralised management structure for ITV and to fill a number of senior positions. The job of ITV network director will fall open at the end of August when Marcus Plant leaves.

David Liddiment, of Granada UK Broadcasting, and Nick Elliott, head of drama at ITV, are strong contenders.

The new ITV chief executive will also need to appoint a new marketing director and a commercial director.

It is understood that his skills as a conciliator brought him to the attention of ITV, which has suffered from the inability of the big and small regional broadcasters that make up

share, which has dropped from 36 per cent in the early 1990s to 32 per cent now. ITV has suffered badly at the hands of BBC1, which now lags only 2.5 percentage points behind it, against 8 points four years ago.

Although best known for his work in radio, Mr Eyer spent much of his early career in television advertising. He is widely respected for his strength of purpose and his integrity.

It is understood that his skills as a conciliator brought him to the attention of ITV, which has suffered from the inability of the big and small regional broadcasters that make up

the independent television network to pull together. ITV has had no chief executive for two years, believing that the job was not relevant to its federal structure. With a cut in the number of ITV companies from 15 to seven, there is now a widespread recognition within the industry, however, that the broadcaster needs a leaner, more centralised structure if it is to maintain its lead as the dominant television player.

Leslie Hill, chairman of ITV, said: "The ITV companies recognise that it is good to have somebody who knows the industry from the advertising

perspective... The idea is to give him more power and responsibility than the post has had in the past."

Mr Eyer, who will be leaving Capital on September 30, said in a statement yesterday: "This is a unique challenge. There are enormous opportunities for ITV to build on its position as the country's most popular channel." His position at Capital Radio will be filled by David Mansfield, 43, the company's group managing director.

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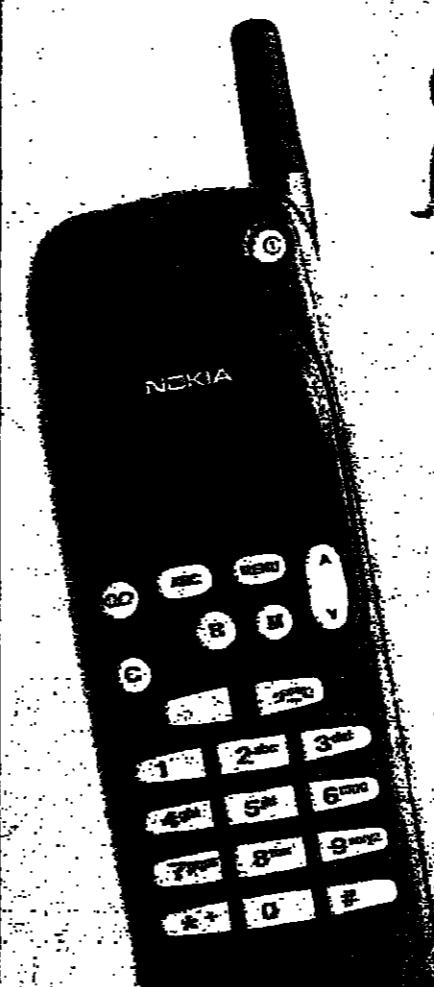
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the future.

THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 11 1997

Court backs police over identifying paedophiles

Adrian Lee and Lin Jenkins report on ruling over public's right to know

POLICE were right to warn the public when two convicted paedophiles moved into their area, the High Court ruled yesterday in a judgment that has serious implications for future policy on sex offenders.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, said a blanket policy of revealing the identities and past of all paedophiles would be objectionable. But in exceptional cases, where there was a risk of further crimes, the public had a right to know. "The police have a job to do."

The ruling prompted calls for the Home Office to draw up a unified policy for all police forces. Concern was also expressed that paedophiles would be driven underground and denied help.

Lord Bingham, sitting with Mr Justice Buxton, dismissed a challenge by the married couple, who for legal reasons can only be called AB and CD. They had claimed that a decision by North Wales Police to "out" them was unlawful.

Police identified the couple, who had convictions for rape and indecent assault and had served seven years in jail, to the owner of a caravan site near Wrexham at Easter. Officers feared that they might harm children holidaying in the area. Fearing for their safety, they moved on.

The husband and wife, aged 46 and 42, were given leave to appeal by Lord Bingham, who said the case had "far-reaching implications". Generally, the

identity of a sex offender should be protected, he said, but it was not an absolute policy. "Although I consider that the policy and the conduct of the North Wales Police fell well within the bounds of legality, the applicants have drawn attention to a pressing social problem."

"It is not acceptable that those who have undergone the lawful punishment imposed by the courts should be the subject of intimidation and private vengeance, harried from parish to parish like paupers under the Poor Law."

Michael Purdon, the couple's solicitor, said afterwards: "It's God help them after this, just watch it is a case with enormous social implications."

It involves the freedom of the individual and the scope of the powers of the police and other crime prevention agencies, and it has got to be considered by the Court of Appeal." He said the couple were now living a nomadic existence.

Paul Cavatino, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, called on the Home Office to publish a code of practice. "Disclosure of identity should be restricted to the most exceptional situations. Public concern is absolutely valid but there is a danger, if paedophiles are named, that they will move around from place to place and make it more difficult to get treatment and for police to carry out surveillance."

He said he feared sex offenders would try to avoid a register of serious offenders, to be set up in the autumn under the Sex Offenders Act, if they believed their names would be made public.

The Home Office, which

earlier this year concluded that there were almost 110,000 convicted paedophiles living in the community, said it would be compiling a list of guidelines for police.

A spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers said that although policy was up to individual police forces, it was accepted that alarmist, large-scale public warnings were not appropriate.

Law report, page 39

Lord Bingham: rejected married couple's claims

Professor fondled two male patients

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A HOSPITAL consultant who fondled two male patients was yesterday found guilty of serious professional misconduct involving indecency.

The General Medical Council's professional conduct committee found that Ariel Lant, 61, head of the therapeutics department at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, had behaved "improperly and indecently" towards Mr A, 19, a student, and Mr B, 28, a homosexual businessman.

The professor, of St John's Wood, north London, fondled the patients during two consultations in 1994, the committee was told.

Professor Lant, author of many papers on the effect of drugs on kidneys and the cardiovascular system, denied the allegations. Cross-examined by Rosalind Foster, for the council, he denied trying to "disparage or blacken the characters" of Mr A and Mr B. He described their claims as "nonsense and fantasising".

The professor admitted that he had embarked on "shock tactics" to warn both men about the dangers of tattooing and body-piercing. Both men were "irresponsible", he said, and he felt it his duty to warn them that such acts brought with them a great deal of danger if sterile needles were not used.

The committee decided to suspend Professor Lant's registration for six months after his counsel, Nicola Davies, QC, submitted what she called a series of "stunning testimonies". Colleagues had described him as an intellectual giant. Ralph Sweeney, Professor Lant's family doctor, said his patient was internationally known for giving addresses on medical topics.

Care home manager 'drugged' residents

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE manager of an old people's home kept residents quiet by putting drugs into their Horlicks and sherry, a court was told yesterday. Mary Allen, 61, allegedly sedated them with a powerful tranquilliser used to treat schizophrenia.

One of her victims was said to be a noisy resident whose bedroom was above Mrs Allen's sitting room, the court was told. The woman would regularly ring a bell for attention and strike her walking stick on the floor, but fell silent after being given the drug.

A woman with cancer was said to have slept for two days after being given the tranquilliser. Mrs Allen also laced the coffee of her employer, Martin Pascal, to quieten him in the afternoons, it was alleged.

Ian Mason, for the prosecution, told Winchester Crown Court: "She used melleril, a tranquilliser drug used for the treatment of schizophrenia, excitement or dangerously impulsive behaviour. It is only available on prescription."

Catherine Mills, a care assistant at the Park Manor Residential Home in Poole, Dorset, alleged that Mrs Allen told staff to put melleril in residents' drinks. "Mrs Allen said she had got permission from their doctors to give it to them and they had got prescriptions for it," she said.

Mrs Mills said that quite often she had seen Mrs Allen crush up melleril tablets and put them into the owners' coffee at lunchtime.

Mrs Allen, of Parkstone, Dorset, denies ten charges of administering a noxious substance with intent to injure and two charges of possessing a class A drug, morphine. The trial continues.



Fans of Tim Henman prove that their devotion to the number one British tennis player knows no bounds. The "Henmaniacs" yesterday boarded a plane for Kiev to cheer on Henman and Greg Rusedski as they take on the Ukraine today in the Davis Cup tie (Stephen Farrell and Peter Foster write).

Danyelle Elliott-Brown, 15 (holding the flag), from Sheffield, spends every penny she has and most of her waking hours pursuing her Henman obsession. She dresses from head to toe in the clothes of Henman's sponsor, fines Henman pictures to her keyrings, paints Henman's initials on her face and follows him, asking for his autograph, wherever he goes.

"I fell in love with him at Wimbledon

Henmaniacs ready to hold court for their idol in Kiev

"95," she says. "It was after he hit that ball-girl and was interviewed on television. When he confessed to his mistake he blushed bright red. I felt so sorry for him."

Among Danyelle's treasured possessions are three of her Henman sketches autographed by the clean-cut young player. Part of the attraction for teenage fans is his dark and sometimes arrogant side. "His attitude is so mysterious,

he sometimes just ignores his fans," she says. "With Greg you'll get a hi or a hello, but not with Tim. He just walks on by. I think he's just shy."

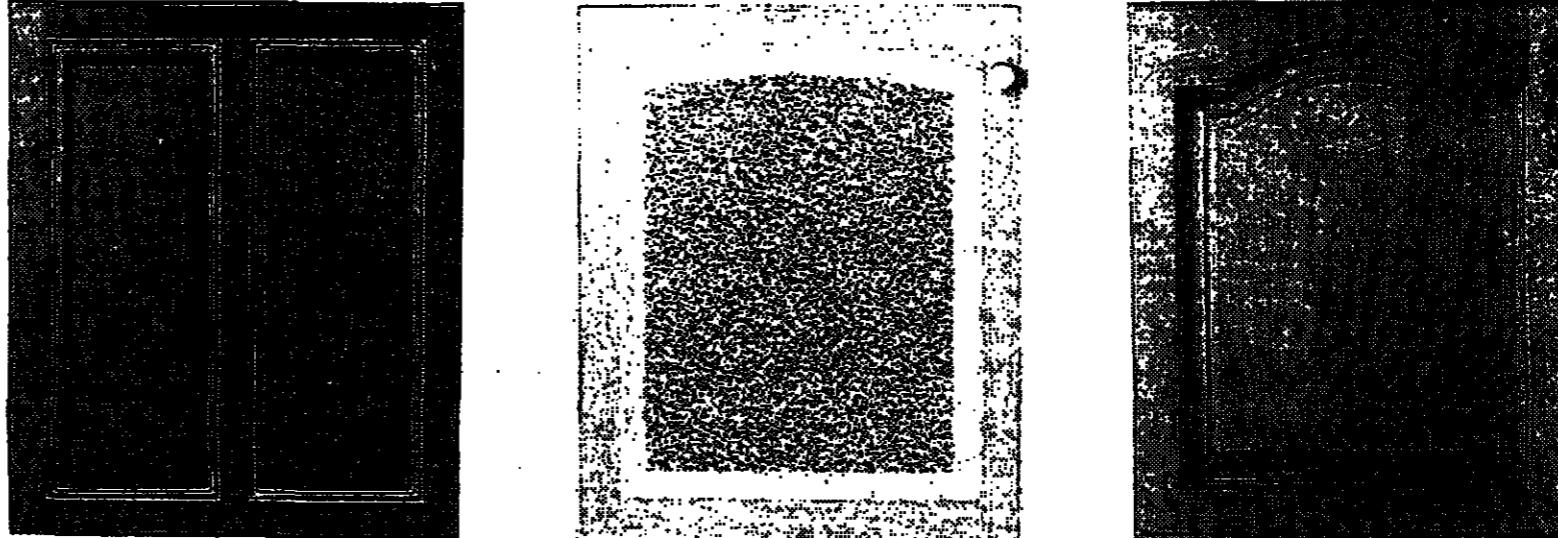
The party was organised by Jean Tyson, 43, co-founder of Topspin, the official Tim Henman fan club. She produces a monthly newsletter documenting every aspect of his career, including updates on his fitness. "We have 240 members aged 8 to 80.

although the majority are girls aged 16 to 25," she said.

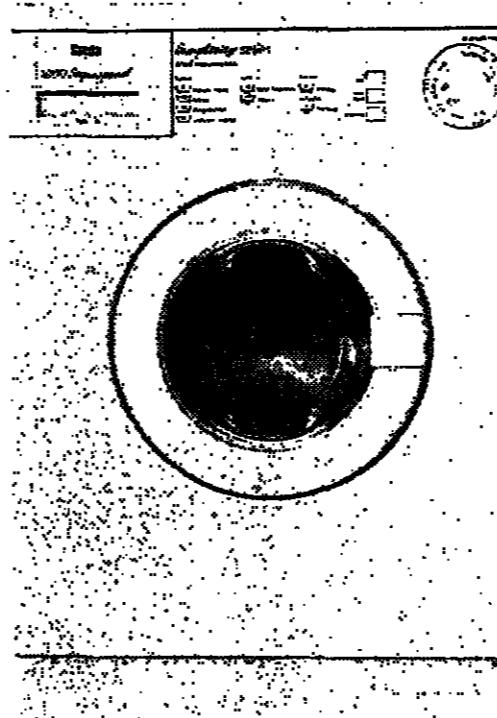
Helen Kempell, 21, from Surrey, and John Thorpe, 36, from North Yorkshire, said they were going to support all the British players. However, Mr Thorpe, sporting a 1995 Davis Cup T-shirt beneath his anorak, admitted Henman was the best British player. "He's got a magnificent cross-court backhand slice and his high backhand volley is unmatched for consistency except by Pete Sampras."

Two older fans in the party, Janet Reed, 66, and Mary Swallow, 57, are still smarting at "People's Sunday". "Everybody said that crowd were true tennis fans, but they're not the people you find at Davis Cup ties. People like us do that," Mrs Swallow said.

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challenge on

Bank PLC

INSIDE
SECTION

2
TODAY



ECONOMICS

New life for
Thatcher's
dream Britain
PAGE 31

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft



EDUCATION

It was 20 years ago
today — and still the
girls are a class act
PAGE 41



SPORT

Hill defenceless
against barbs
of Arrows boss
PAGES 43-52

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
46, 47

THE TIMES



Drill in line

2

2
TODAY

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JULY 11 1997

Further rise in rates fails to quell speculation

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE City yesterday shrugged off the latest quarter-point interest rate rise but the markets face a volatile month as speculation about future rate increases continues.

Economists believe that another quarter-point rise could come as early as next month, with some forecasting that rates will rise as high as 8 per cent by early next year.

The FTSE 100 index recovered from early falls to close

up 5.4 points at 4,767.8 in weak trading. Stocks in major exporters partially recovered from recent losses as traders expressed relief that industry had not been beaten by a half-point rise. Shares in retailers also climbed as the market concluded that the increase would not greatly restrict consumer spending.

Gilts closed little changed, but the pound fell more than a pence to close at DM2.9555, while sterling's trade-weighted index dropped 0.3 to 103.8 as profit-taking set in. Dealers

expect sterling's losses are likely to prove short-lived as expectations of further rate rises continue to dominate the market, and that the pound will climb to more than DM3.00 in the near future.

The Bank said the rate rise was necessary to curb inflationary pressures caused by strong consumer spending and economic growth. But it also expressed concern about the pound, claiming that sterling's latest rise had "sharpened" its policy dilemma.

Businesses gave a cool recep-

tion to the rise, renewing criticism of Gordon Brown for failing to hit consumers with tax rises in the Budget.

Alan Armitage, head of economics at the Engineering Employers Federation, said: "The further rise in interest rates will dent some of the incentives for investment announced in the Budget and, if the pound rises further as a consequence, exports will suffer further."

The Federation of Small Businesses forecast the rise would add a further £50

million in annual interest payment costs for the country's three million small companies. Stephen Alambritis, of the FSB, said: "What small businesses are worrying about now is uncertainty, and we hope by Christmas that a line will be drawn under interest rates so they don't rise above 7 per cent."

But economists said the Bank faced little choice but to increase rates after a raft of recent economic data had pointed to accelerating spending growth as consumers cash

in building society windfall

payouts.

Richard Jeffrey, UK economist at Charterhouse, expressed disappointment that the Bank had not increased rates more sharply. Mr Jeffrey, who believes rates will rise to 8 per cent next year, said: "This was exactly the moment for a shock rise. The increase will have little impact on consumer psychology and spending will continue to accelerate."

Other economists were less hawkish about the outlook for

rates, arguing that sterling's rise had already resulted in a major policy tightening and the impact of three consecutive quarter-point rises would need time to show through.

Andrew Cates, UK economist at UBS, said the Bank would need to make only one more quarter-point rise before the end of the year. He added that if rates are raised more aggressively, "the economy will slow down markedly next year and by far more than is necessary to meet the inflation target".

BUSINESS
TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100 4767.8 (+5.4)
Yield 3.42%
FTSE All share 2237.18 (+0.54)
Market 1975.78 (+57.61)
New York 9727.95 (-14.48)
Dow Jones 906.93 (-0.61)

U.S. RATE

Federal Funds 5.75%* (5.75%)
Long Bond 100.97%* (100.97%)
Yield 6.58%* (6.58%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank 67.0%* (67.0%)
Libor long gilt future (Sep) 114.2% (114.2%)

STERLING

New York: S 1.6880* (1.6875)
London: 1.6877 (1.6855)
DM 2.9255 (2.9265)
FF 9.9904 (10.0270)
SF 2.4475 (2.4672)
Yen 150.25 (150.20)
E Index 103.8 (104.1)

U.S. DOLLAR

London: DM 1.7517* (1.7603)
FF 5.9220* (5.9465)
SF 1.4495* (1.4587)
Yen 113.25 (112.75)
S Index 102.2 (102.0)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep) \$18.05 (\$18.30)

GOLD

London close \$319.45 (\$319.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Woolwich share auctions defended

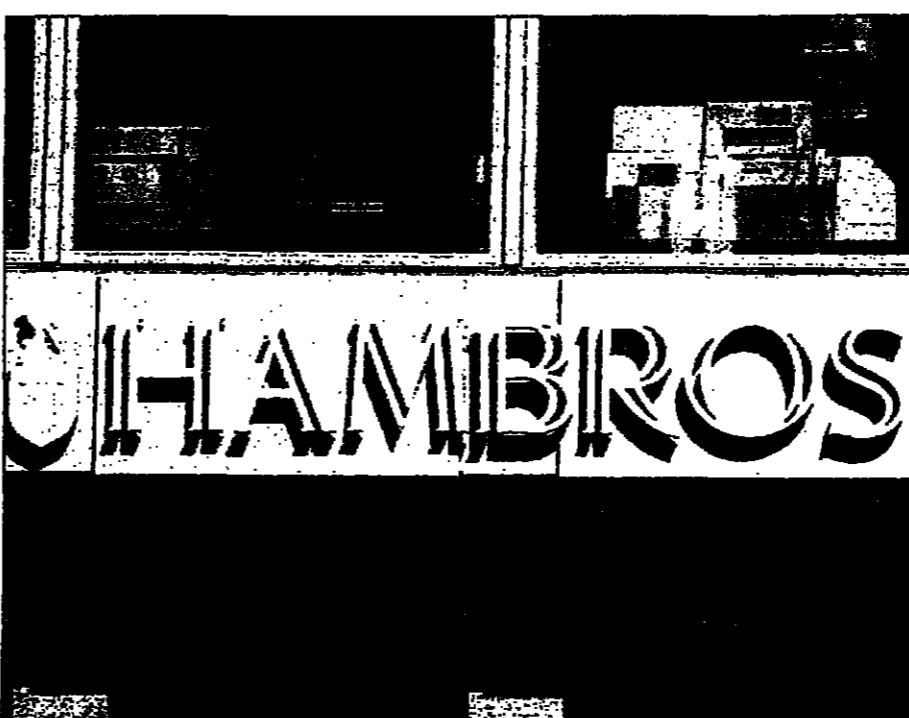
BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

Woolwich

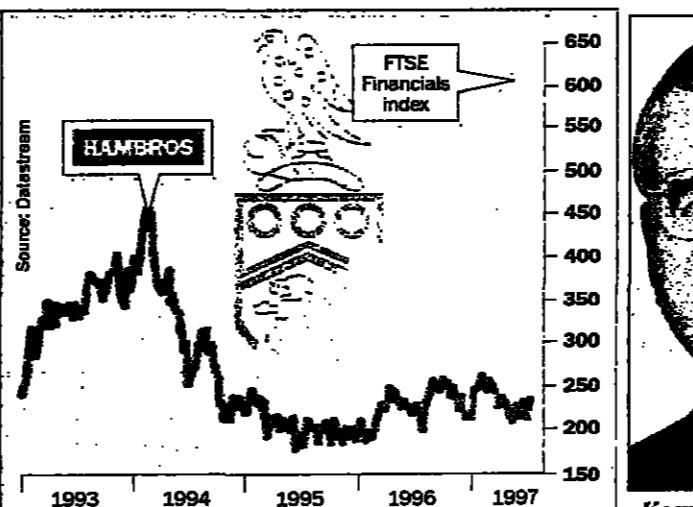
share

auctions

defended



The CWS affair has cost Hambros Bank £4 million and untold damage to its reputation



Keswick under pressure

Stock market, page 30

Outsourced

A landmark case on employment law affecting the rights of thousands of workers whose jobs are "outsourced" to contractors was decided in the Court of Appeal yesterday, with victory going to the new employers. Three judges overruled the findings of an Employment Tribunal and found in favour of a local council that cut the pay of staff at a home that it took over from another authority. Page 28

Recovery

SHARES in Storehouse, the Mothercare and Bhs retail group, recovered some of the ground lost since February by bouncing 17p to 205p after the company unveiled better than expected sales in the first quarter of this year. Page 29, *Tempus* 30

CWS scandal claims three at Hambros

BY JASON NISSE

HAMBROS, the 158-year-old merchant bank, was rocked yesterday by the departures of Nigel Pantling, its head of corporate finance, and two directors of the bank, Peter Large and Andrew Salmon over the Co-operative Wholesale Society scandal.

The three left after an investigation by Norton Rose, the City's solicitor, found that Hambros had used confidential CWS documents while working on an aborted £1.2 billion bid for CWS by Galileo, the vehicle of Andrew Regan. On Monday Nigel Campion-Smith, the partner at lawyers Travers Smith Braithwaite who advised Galileo, resigned to "reduce the embarrassment" caused by the affair.

The confidential CWS documents had been passed to Mr Regan by Allan Green, retail director of CWS. Mr Green is facing theft charges while Mr Regan and his colleague, David Lyons, are charged with handling stolen goods.

Mr Regan said: "The events of this week make it perfectly clear that the advice Galileo paid so many million of pounds for, and followed every inch of the way, was inept."

Hambros received nearly £500,000 from Galileo for its work, and was also promised a success fee of £10 million, while Travers Smith Braithwaite was paid £750,000. Both have paid compensation to CWS. The Hambros losses on the CWS affair are estimated to stand at more than £4 million.

The bank is looking for a chief executive to replace Sir Chips Keswick, who takes over as chairman from Lord Hambros later this month. The Hambros management has been under pressure from Regent Pacific, the aggressive Hong Kong fund manager, which bought a 3.15 per cent stake last year.

The Bank of England has prevented the publication of the report because of banking confidentiality. However Hambros said that Norton Rose has found that "those at Hambros

who knew that confidential information from CWS had or might become available without proper authority failed to appreciate that it was not appropriate for them to either receive or use that information".

The report says that both Mr Large and Mr Salmon have been reprimanded. Norton Rose also recommended that Hambros had used confidential CWS documents while working on an aborted £1.2 billion bid for CWS by Galileo, the vehicle of Andrew Regan. On Monday Nigel Campion-Smith, the partner at lawyers Travers Smith Braithwaite who advised Galileo, resigned to "reduce the embarrassment" caused by the affair.

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Mr Salmon, 34, only recently became a director of corporate finance. He was seen as a high-flyer and had been advising Mirror Group on its bid for Midland Independent Newspapers.

Mr Regan was advised by

Allan & Overy, the City solicitor, during the CWS deal as well as working with Travers

Smith Braithwaite. The Office for the Supervision of Solicitors is considering a formal investigation. Alan Paul, the Allen & Overy partner who advised Hambros, was on holiday yesterday but the firm said: "There was never any suggestion we gave anything but the best advice to Hambros."

Mr Pantling, 46, only joined Hambros in April 1995. He was recruited from rival merchant bank Schroders to succeed Anthony Beever, the former head of the Takeover Panel.

Mr Large, 44, joined soon after Mr Pantling, coming from SBC Warburg, where he had advised Hobson, Mr Regan's previous company. He has been on leave since Hambros formally apologised to CWS for its role in the deal in April.

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Financial services travel well

By ALAN MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S financial services companies enjoyed record overseas earnings last year, providing a huge boost to the country's current account, according to a survey published yesterday.

The British Invisibles City Table for 1996 showed net overseas earnings increased almost 10 per cent to £22.7 billion.

Duncan McKenzie, economic adviser to British Invisibles, said the overseas earnings of the financial services sector had been a major contributor to the reduction in the current account deficit to £455 million in 1996. According to Office for National Statistics figures, all invisibles, which include net receipts from services, investment income and transfers rose £4.3 million to £12.2 billion last year.

Mr McKenzie said: "Further growth in its overseas earnings reflects the consolidation and strengthening of London's leading position in many financial markets."

The British Invisibles survey showed income from overseas services rising slightly to £12.8 billion. Investment income increased by £1.8 billion to £9.8 billion and now accounts for 43 per cent of total overseas income.

Banks' overseas earnings bounced back after a disappointing 1995, rising from £5.9 billion to £7.1 billion. British Invisibles said the recovery was a result of lower investment spending abroad, which declined from £2 billion to £1.1 billion.

But insurance sector earnings fell from £6.9 billion in 1995 to £6.1 billion last year. The main cause of the decline was a big drop in the overseas earnings of Lloyd's, which fell from £1.6 billion to £508 million.

Securities dealers also enjoyed a strong performance. Overseas earnings rose £42 million to £2.2 billion.



Andrew Dalton, the managing director, and David Sebire, the chairman, of Robert H Lowe, the packaging and sportswear manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits by 83 per cent to £1.7 million in the six months to April 30. Sales rose 31 per cent to £17.9 million. The half-year dividend rose from 0.1p to 0.125p out of earnings up 39 per cent from 0.88p to 1.22p. Mr Sebire said that there was "plenty of scope for further organic growth."

Judges favour employer who cut outsourced workers' pay

By MARTIN WALLER

A LANDMARK case on employment law affecting the rights of thousands of workers whose jobs are "outsourced" to contractors was decided in the Court of Appeal yesterday, with victory going to the new employers.

Three judges, Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, overruled the find-

ings of an Employment Appeals Tribunal and found in favour of a local council which cut the pay of staff at a care home that it took over from another authority.

The decision had been keenly awaited by employment lawyers, who have argued that the uncertainty over who footed the bills from such a transfer of business was hampering the growing business of outsourcing, or bringing in

specialised contractors to run non-core businesses such as cleaning, computer services and security.

The losers in this case – and a parallel one involving British Fuels – have been given the right to appeal to the House of Lords. The cases may then go to the European Court of Justice in Strasbourg.

Rory Graham, a partner in Bird & Bird, the law firm,

said: "On the face of it, it looks like common sense. But what we need is the final judgment at the highest level, or a decision that they are not going to appeal."

The case was brought by Unison, the local government union, as a test of employment law. A home providing secure accommodation was transferred from Lancashire County Council to St Helens, which cut the staff from 162 to

72. In some cases loss of allowances resulted in reduction in earnings.

The 72 staff at the home were made redundant by Lancashire County Council and then re-employed by St Helens. A legal battle was begun over whether the transfer was covered by Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations and a European directive guaranteeing workers similar terms and conditions when their jobs are taken over by another employer.

In the parallel case, the same judges ruled that British Fuels was wrong to change the contracts of two workers who were transferred from National Fuel Distributors because the reason for the change was the transfer of employment.

However, British Fuels was also granted leave to take the case on appeal to the House of Lords.

National Savings accounts cleared

SIR JOHN BOURN, the head of the National Audit Office, yesterday cleared the 1995 accounts submitted by National Savings, despite continuing discrepancies involving tens of millions of pounds (Adam Jones writes).

The Government's savings arm has been overhauling its

accounting systems after "black holes" were discovered in its 1993 and 1994 accounts. At the end of 1994 investors supposedly owed National Savings £37 million, even though they cannot owe money to the agency. The figure was down to £33.7 million in 1995. However, a

£12 million discrepancy in transactions between National Savings and Post Office Counters, a major retailer, had increased from £12 million to £14 million.

A National Savings spokeswoman said the 1996 accounts would be the first to reflect the remedial action which continues under Peter Bureau, chief executive.

investment and ordinary deposit accounts, had total deposits of £10.7 billion at December 31, 1995.

A National Savings spokeswoman said the 1996 accounts would be the first to reflect the remedial action which continues under Peter Bureau, chief executive.

The two audited products, the

BASE RATE FOR BANK OF IRELAND.

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 11 July 1997 its Base Rate will increase from

6.50% to 6.75%



Incorporated in Ireland with limited liability.

Head Office, 36 Queen Street, London EC4R 1BN

Interest rate change

Allied Irish Bank (GB) announces that with effect from close of business on 10 July 1997 its Base Rate was increased from 6.50% to 6.75% pa.



Allied Irish Bank (GB) Full-service banking in Britain, Ireland and the USA. Ireland's leading banking group employing 15,500 people. Assets of £20 billion.

Girobank

Girobank announces that with effect from close of business on 10 July 1997 its Base Rate was increased from 6.50% to 6.75% per annum.

Girobank plc. Registered in England No. 1950000. Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EO. A member of the Alliance & Leicester Group.

Barclays Base Rate Change

Barclays Bank PLC announces that with effect from 10th July 1997, its Base Rate has increased from 6.50% to 6.75% pa.



BARCLAYS
REGISTERED OFFICE: 55 LOMBARD STREET, EC3P 3AH.
REGISTERED NUMBER: MC2657

Skills group warning over growth

Skills group, the computer group, yesterday warned that the harsh market conditions in continental Europe were likely to wipe out any growth in its full-year profits.

The shares plunged 68p to a two-year low of 126.1p. In the six months to May 31, pre-tax profits were flat at £6.5 million, with earnings unchanged at 5.8p a share. The 1.3p interim dividend (1.25p) is payable on October 6.

Kelvin bonus

Ray Kelvin, founding chief executive of Ted Baker, the fashion shirt company, is to receive a one-off payment of £3 million in the run-up to its flotation later this month. Mr Kelvin is set to make up to a further £12 million from the estimated £20 million placing. The company said Mr Kelvin had not taken any money out of the company while it was growing.

First auction

THE year's first auction of Lloyd's of London underwriting capacity raised a total of £2.4 million for sellers. The total is double the amount raised in the first auction last year. In two days, £46.8 million of capacity was sold.

Review by Britannic hits shares

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE shares fell 15.2p to 816p after the insurer revealed it had suspended its sales force for a week and is investigating training and competence levels within the company.

Brian Shaw, managing director, said the firm had halted sales while it rechecked how many of its 1,850 financial representatives had passed industry examinations and internal performance targets.

Mr Shaw said: "We are taking precautions to ensure no customers are advised by people who have not met all the required standards."

The company was in breach of rules laid down by the Personal Investment Authority that required financial advisers to have passed Financial Planning Certificates 1, 2 and 3 by the start of this month. Less than 80 per cent of Britannic representatives have done this, one of the lowest records in the industry.

Britannic was one of 24 pension providers castigated this week by Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary, for delays in compensating victims of personal pension mis-selling, having completed just 4 per cent of its caseload.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

New York custodian for Gartmore funds

GARTMORE, the investment house that has assumed control of NatWest's asset management business since it was bought by the bank last year, is to outsource the custody of its combined institutional funds to The Bank of New York.

The deal, which is subject to contract and client approval, will put £25 billion in the hands of The Bank of New York from the start of next year. Around half of this came from NatWest Investment Management and will be switched from Lloyds Bank, its current custodian. Gartmore Money Management is to close and its 25 staff redeployed. Gartmore said the move would allow it to focus on developing the investment management business. The Bank of New York is one of the largest custodians in the world. The bank has responsibility for around \$3 trillion (£1.78 trillion) of assets.

Heiton ahead 25%

THE strengthening economy, which has led to a construction boom in the Republic of Ireland, underpinned a 25 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.6 million (£7.8 million) at Heiton Holdings, the building services company, in the year to April 30. Turnover rose 9.4 per cent to £140 million, giving Heiton a 23 per cent share of the Irish market. Earnings rose more than 25 per cent to £12.3p a share. A final dividend of 12.2p, giving a total dividend of 3.9p, up almost 26 per cent on last year, is due on September 16.

Exceptionals hit Compaq

COMPAQ, the world's largest supplier of personal computers, suffered a 20 per cent fall in second-quarter profits to \$214 million (£127 million) from \$267 million after an exceptional \$208 million charge relating to the acquisition of Microcom, a manufacturer of modems and other remote-access technologies, for \$280 million. Revenues rose to \$5.01 billion from \$4 billion. In the first six months of the year net income advanced 20 per cent to \$601 million from \$501 million. Compaq ended the second quarter with a cash balance of \$5.1 billion.

Three face fraud trial

TWO more men in an alleged £27 million (£16 million) currency dealing fraud have been committed for trial at Jersey's Royal Court. They are Alfred Williams, 48, a former Touche Ross partner, and Peter Stoneman, 53, a senior manager with Cantrade Private Bank. Robert Young, 43, an independent trader, has already been remanded for trial. Young and Stoneman deny the charges, while Williams has reserved his plea. Cantrade Private Bank faces 33 fraud charges.

Dalgety to shed 109 jobs

THE restructuring of Dalgety's Spillers Petfoods business will mean the closure of the Seafcombe factory on Merseyside next year with the loss of 109 jobs. In addition, the company's workforce at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, will be trimmed from 400 to 250 by the end of the year. On Tuesday, the company lost 15 per cent of its market value after it admitted fourth-quarter trading had been well below expectations. The cost of restructuring the business prompted a £138 million provision.

Inflation up in Ireland

THE Republic of Ireland's consumer price index rose 0.3 per cent in June largely because of higher food prices and mortgage interest rates, the Central Statistics Office said yesterday. Since the CSO has only recently started to compile the country's inflation data on a monthly basis, the long-term rate to June 30 has to be calculated over 13 months from May 1996. That figure, at 1.8 per cent, was broadly in line with expectations and compares to an annual rate to May 1997 of 1.5 per cent.

Lambert walks tall

LAMBERT HOWARTH, the footwear supplier, yesterday announced stronger than expected half-year trading, sending its shares 13 per cent higher to 135p. It expects to show "a very significant increase in profit before tax and exceptional items" in September, when it reports results for the six months to June 30. Most of the improvement came from its Footglove branded sport shoes. Plans to reduce UK manufacturing capacity will lead to further exceptional charges this year.

TURBINE RATES

Bank	Boys	Bank	Boys	Bank	Boys
Australia S	2.1	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
Austria Sch	21.75	20.10	20.10	20.10	20.10
Belgium Fr	64.13	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00
Denmark Kr	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20
Cyprus Cyp	0.514	0.545	0.545	0.545	0.545
Denmark Kr	11.83	10.94	10.94	10.94	10.94
Finland Mark	9.33	8.58	8.58	8.58	8.58
Germany DM	10.44	9.87	9.87	9.87	9.87
Germany DM	3.11	2.87	2.87	2.87	2.87
Greece Dr	491	452	452	452	452
Hong Kong S	13.95	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50
Iceland Kr	127	107	107	107	107
Ireland Ft	1.16	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Italy Lira	1.29	5.84	5.84	5.84	5.84
Japan Yen	300	260	260	260	260
	205.93	185.40	185.40	185.40	185.40

Bank rates for small denominations. Bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Coutts & Co Base Rate.

With effect from Thursday 10th July 1997 Coutts & Co has increased its Base Rate from

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP
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Heaton ahead 25%

Exceptionals hit Com-

Three face fraud

Dalgety to shed 10%

Inflation up in Ire-

Lambert walks tall

TOURIST RATES

Coutts & C.
Base Rate

THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 11 1997

BUSINESS NEWS 29

In less than a fortnight's time there will be another high level departure from Hambros. Lord Hambro, the former chief fund raiser for the Conservative Party, will be leaving the chairman's office at the family banking business. His retirement party is likely to be a muted affair, although he has had rather more time to plan it than had the trio of corporate finance executives who exited Hambro headquarters yesterday.

They were the men who knew, or should have known, the provenance of certain documents used in Andrew Regan's abortive bid for the Coop. Hambros is right to say farewell to them and send them away without the sort of payoff which often make such events more comfortable for both sides.

But it will take more than this to restore Hambros' damaged reputation. Andrew Regan joyfully did his best to tarnish that still further last night. It is a bit rich for the ambitious Mr Regan to try to blame his current predicament on the advice that he received from his merchant bankers, but Hambros, and the unpublished Norton Rose report, have provided him with enough ammunition to encourage him to do just that.

The man who must now lead the bank's fight back is Sir Chips Keswick, who takes over the chairmanship from Lord Hambro. But, while wonderfully well connected, Sir Chips has the disadvantage of having been

chairman of Hambros Bank during its slide from grace.

As Lord Hambro confessed in his last address to shareholders: "While we had hoped that the profitability of the banking group would be restored more quickly, we remain convinced of the prospects and opportunities for a medium-sized merchant bank providing advice and service to its clients..."

Well, that depends. The Regan affair will have done nothing to win the bank new business although there are loyal corporate customers, several of whom submit that Michael Sorkin is one of the most talented corporate financiers in the business. Mr Sorkin, however, prefers cooking up deals with clients such as Elliott Berndt to presiding over whole corporate finance departments, and, having seen Nigel Panting helping to carry the can for the Coop affair, his stance on this seems fully justified.

But Sir Chips may need more support if he is not to preside over a further weakening of the group. Hambros profits have barely budged over the last decade, while those of other finance houses, most notably Schroders, have multiplied. Had it not been for its involvement in

estate agency, the figures would have halved.

Once the property cycle turns the deficiencies in the bank will be cruelly exposed. If Hambros has not found a clearer strategy for competing in the banking world by then, it will look extremely vulnerable to a predator. In the ultimate indignity, someone might spot the opportunity to pick up a reasonable estate agency with a bit of a bank thrown in.

Time is running out for big spenders

We must wait until the middle of August to learn whether the Bank of England's monetary policy committee was unanimous in its view that interest rates had to rise by another half point yesterday.

It is to be hoped that there were at least some voices raised against

the increase and in favour of waiting to see the effect of the previous two hikes before rushing to use their so recently acquired power. The minutes of their deliberations will provide a fascinating insight into this new arm of the Bank of England and indicate the depth of discussion and debate which now has such a crucial role in the economy.

It may be the Chancellor's avowed wish to put a stop to the consumer boom, but human psychology would indicate that yesterday's interest rate rise will not have that effect. As the electrical stores group Dixons made clear on Wednesday, what is currently fuelling spending is the flurry of windfalls which have put extra cash into 15 million consumers' pockets.

For those who opt to take cash instead of shares, the fall out from demutualisation is the equivalent of a Christmas cheque, or birthday money. It is destined to be spent on some-thing special, not to be squandered in the generality of day to day expenditure nor to be care-fully put away in savings account. Hence Dixons' chief executive, John Clare's delight at the rocketing sales of televisions and computers. These are luxuries that would not have been bought had it not been for the generosity of the Halifax, the Woolwich and the rest.

Putting up the cost of borrowing will not stop people enjoying a spurge with these unearned bonuses. Although those organisations which have bestowed windfalls on their customers are now racing to increase their rates they charge them on their mortgages. Mr Brown will be disappointed if he thinks that the two will be linked in the minds of the Great British consumer.

But the wave of windfalls appears to be slowing down. The sales boom Mr Clare is enjoying could prove relatively short lived, even without the efforts of the

due to solicitors Nabarro Nathanson against assets recovered of £1.67 million. Mr Justice Perris was duly appalled and sent the bills to court officials to vet and decide how much is justified.

This relatively small case only came to notice because of the Maxwell name. To unravel the whole group three other much bigger operations are likely to end up charging the best part of £100 million. But Price Waterhouse, handling the hugely complex mid-Atlantic insolvency of Maxwell Communications Corporation, has already raised \$2 billion, has paid creditors' 42p in the pound and should top 50p after lawsuits.

The courts need to show clearly, consistently and loudly that they will spot excess and weed it out. Otherwise, the law must make receivers more accountable on costs in good time for the next recession — soon.

Eyre raising

RICHARD Eyre is a brave man. In his new role at ITV he will have to stand between the creative programme people and a trio of ultimate bosses: Lord Hollick, Gerry Robinson and Michael Green. If that looked an attractive proposition, one can only suspect that Henry Beans Restaurants may have lost some of the appeal which persuaded him that his former company, Capital, should pay so highly for them.

SIG £26m share offer for Roskel

SIG, the insulation products company, has made a recommended £26 million offer for Roskel, the building company (Oliver August writes).

The acquisition would enhance earnings in the first year, SIG said, and strengthen its position as a distributor of ceilings and partitioning systems.

SIG is offering four of its own shares for every nine Roskel shares, which values the shares at 145p, or a cash alternative of 135p per share. Roskel shares shot up 63.5p to 134.5p, while SIG shares fell 16p to 310p. SIG said it has received irrevocable commitments from shareholders to accept the offer in respect of 52.3 per cent of Roskel shares. It also said that the strong pound was affecting its profits.

GEC joins forces with Italian market leader

BY OLIVER AUGUST

GEC and Finmeccanica, owner of Alenia, Italy's main defence manufacturer, will set up a 50/50 joint venture in radar and defence systems and take equity stakes in some of their respective businesses; it was confirmed yesterday.

Alan Kemp, GEC Marconi director of corporate strategy, said: "This is the single biggest step towards European defence consolidation so far. We fit very well together with the Italians."

The Italian state controlled company said: "Finmeccanica and GEC have reached a preliminary deal for broad strategic cooperation in the defence sector."

The joint venture activities will have a combined turnover of more than £2 billion. The

deal will create the leading European avionics business.

The plans for the joint venture were revealed in *The Times* on Monday. Analysts said that a merger of the two groups is a strong possibility.

They point to Marconi Alenia's avionics business, a Finmeccanica unit, while Alenia will take a minority stake in GEC Marconi's armaments and armoured car operations. The deal is expected to be completed by December and is subject to regulatory approval, the groups said.

Charles Armitage, analyst at Lehman Brothers, said: "This is undoubtedly good news for GEC shareholders. GEC has increased its access to markets and its access to capital." He said Marconi did well to increase its product profile: "In armoured vehicles,

the GEC business is simply too small. Together they have critical mass. The missiles deal will also increase the product range."

Keith Hayward, of the Society of British Aerospace Companies, said: "The joint venture is a step towards European defence industry consolidation. It will strengthen GEC's position in the world Market place. The deal is a good fit."

This week, George Simpson, GEC managing director, announced the outcome of a strategic review. He offered a possible flotation of the GEC-Alsthom rail and power joint venture and raised hopes of a distribution to shareholders of at least some of GEC's £1 billion cash mountain.

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HYDER, the Welsh utility company, ended speculation over its ability to meet its windfall tax bill by pledging to pay the £282 million bill without cutting voluntary spending on customer rebates and environmental work. It also promised dividend growth.

Hyder — formed when Welsh Water bought Swned, the electricity company — has been at the centre of investor concern since the announcement of the windfall tax because of the unexpectedly large hit it took and because of the company's gearing.

Hyder's bill is high because its two companies performed well in the four years after privatisation. That period formed part of the Treasury's formula for calculating the tax. After paying the tax Hyder will be 200 per cent geared.

Graham Hawker, chief exec-

Hyder to pay tax without cutbacks

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDER, the Welsh utility company, ended speculation over its ability to meet its windfall tax bill by pledging to pay the £282 million bill without cutting voluntary spending on customer rebates and environmental work. It also promised dividend growth.

Hyder will borrow the cash to fund the two payments of its bill, but later it may look at longer-term borrowing such as a corporate bond.

Mr Hawker said the company had opted to continue extra spending on customer rebates and environmental work worth £35 million a year even though that cash would cover the interest payments it will have to meet on loans to pay the windfall tax.

Hyder's assurances over dividend growth helped to buoy the shares, which have fallen since the Budget. The shares fell 21.5p to 827.5p.

Stoves to revamp its corporate structure

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

STOVES, the cooker company, announced a corporate restructuring yesterday and said trade had picked up after a difficult final quarter of last year.

The company said that consumer confidence and high street sales were disrupted in the period leading up to the general election. The market for cookers in the three months to May was 10 per cent below expectations. But for the year as a whole, sales were 27 per cent ahead at £80 million, and pre-tax profit was up about 20 per cent to more than £15 million. Full results will be reported on August 19.

Stoves plans to create a holding company, and will ask shareholders' approval at the annual meeting in October to rename the listed company The Stoves Group. The new structure would allow for existing and intended foreign subsidiaries, together with future acquisitions, to report as subsidiaries of the group.

John Crathorne, chief executive, will become chairman of the UK subsidiary. Jim Barnes, finance director and deputy managing director, will become managing director of the UK operations. The shares fell 7.5p to 270p. In February they traded at 330p.

Improved sales restore confidence in Storehouse

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in Storehouse, the Mothercare and BHS retail group, recovered some of the ground lost since February by bouncing 17p to 203p after the company unveiled better than expected sales in the first quarter of this year.

Total sales rose 14.5 per cent. Analysts estimated that like-for-like sales were 2.5 per cent ahead at BHS and 3 per cent ahead at Mothercare.

Alan Smith, chairman, told the annual meeting: "We are extremely disappointed by what we believe to be an undervaluation of the company... We do not believe that the market has yet given the appropriate valuation to what is a successful track record."

Mr Smith was forced to defend Keith Edelman, the chief executive, after a shareholder criticised his remuneration package for last year.

Although Mr Edelman's total pay was down from £910,000 to £728,000, the criteria for his performance-related package was questioned. Mr Smith said the company would in future consider basing its long-term incentive plan on total shareholder return, rather than earnings and share price. He said Mr Edelman "deserves congratulations for the work he has done".



Keith Edelman's pay package came under attack

Tempus, page 30

Shopping mall valued at £267m even before completion

Trafford Centre lifts Peel by £97m

BY CARL MORTISHED

PEEL HOLDINGS, the property developer based in Manchester, has received nearly a £100 million boost from the Trafford Centre, the £4 million sq ft mall under construction at Dumbplington, west of Manchester.

Shares in Peel increased by 3 per cent to 558p after the company revealed that net asset value per share had soared from 420p to 555p. A revaluation of the portfolio produced a surplus of £125 million, with the best of the growth in Peel's retail warehouses which scored a 20 per cent gain. However, the bulk of the increase

came from a £97 million valuation surplus on the Trafford Centre. The scheme will not be completed until the end of next year, but the company has included an interim directors' valuation to take into account the gain from pre-completion.

Peter Scott, managing director of Peel, admitted that it was unusual to include a valuation surplus before completion, but indicated that the gain contained no element of development profit. The Trafford Centre is now in the books at £267 million, including some £60 million in building costs.

Mr Scott admitted that the Trafford

Centre's assets but said: "We intend to hold it for the long term. Planning permission for out of town centres is now almost impossible."

Peel's pre-tax profit rose from £12.6 million to £13.7 million in the year to March which included a write-off of £9 million relating to the winding up of the Manchester Ship Canal pension scheme and a surplus of £8 million from the sale of the Altrincham retail park.

Earnings per share fell from 8.45p to 8.16p and the dividend is increased to 8p, a rise of 1.5p from the previous year, with a final 5.5p.

Tempus, page 30

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Woolwich share revival forecast as auctions end

STAND BY for a rally in shares of the Woolwich. Traders said last night that the price could open at around the 320p level this morning, once the outcome of the final auction is known.

The shares began edging better last night to close 9p dearer at 304p, after briefly touching 291p as almost 13 million changed hands. The third of the four auctions for City fund managers established an average bid price of 285.8p. That compares with the two previous auctions, which struck prices of 202.5p and 315.8p earlier this week. The auctions followed the decision of 23 per cent of the Woolwich's 2.5 million members to sell their shares. The final price for those that sold will be announced today.

When shares began trading on Monday, the price opened at 367.8p, producing a windfall on the minimum 450 shares of £1,553.75. After Wednesday's auction that figure had fallen to £1,280.10. Last night traders were claiming that the shares had been oversold.

The rest of the equity market took the latest quarter-point rise in base rates in its stride. Having opened lower on the back of the 100 point-plus fall overnight on Wall Street, share prices in London drifted throughout the morning. But once the Bank of England had made known its decision, the equity market rallied to close with small gains on the day. The FTSE 100 index, down almost 30 points at one stage, closed 5.4 up at 4,767.8 in thin turnover of 851 million shares.

Tate & Lyle came within a whisker of its low for the year after suffering a "double whammy". Two brokers have slashed their profit forecasts, for different reasons. The shares closed 18p lower at 438.8p, after briefly touching 433p.

A rise of 8.3 per cent in passenger traffic during June lifted BAA Group 12p to 578.4p.

The food retailers were again racing away. J Sainsbury leading with a jump of 21p to 421.2p — it is high for the year — as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and BZW both raised their recommendations for the shares from "sell" to "hold".

Signs of increased food price inflation and a 4.3 per cent increase in like-for-like sales at



Sainsbury led the food retailers higher with a jump of 21p

Sainsbury during the first 16 weeks of the current year has rekindled institutional support in a market short of stock.

Lawrence Sugarman at Kleinwort says of Sainsbury: "It has proved to be a better performance with a negative impact on margins. Sainsbury's sales at 533.2p, set the ball rolling with UBS, the broker, rating the shares a "buy". Argos also

gained 12p to 399.8p, for Sainsbury.

Asda, 23p to 142p, M&W, 71p to 153p, Wm Morrison Supermarkets, 3p to 171p, and Tesco, 11p to 431p.

Elsewhere the high street stores continued to make headway on the back of this week's news that building society windfalls had begun boosting sales. Dixons, up 17p at 553.2p, set the ball rolling with UBS, the broker, rating the shares a "buy". Argos also

gained 12p to 399.8p, for Sainsbury.

There were also gains for Safeway, 12p to 399.8p, and

Roskel celebrated the generous bid terms from SIG Group with a leap of 63.2p at 134.2p. The agreed offer from SIG of 145p a share values the suspended ceilings specialist at almost £26 million. SIG finished 16p lower at 310p.

First-time dealings in Galen Holdings got off to a flying start after a placing by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, at 150p. The shares started life at 162.2p and climbed steadily to touch 184p before closing at 182.2p, a premium of 32.1p.

TII Group rose 16p to 482.1p as Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, raised its stance on the shares to "outperform" from "neutral" and set a 510p target price.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Longer dated issues took a pasting during a volatile performance in the wake of the latest quarter-point rise in bank base rates.

Shorter dated issues showed

their relief at the decision to restrict the rise to just a quarter point instead of the half point suggested in some parts of the City.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt shed 16 to close at 114.12p as the total number of contracts recorded reached 77,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 shed 15p to 110.97p, while at the short end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks firmer at 102.02p.

□ **NEW YORK:** Early gains fell to profit-taking and technology stocks extended their losses. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was

14.48 lower at 7,827.95.

Colley also points out competition is intensifying.

Colley also points out competition is intensifying.

But Jenny Colley at BZW disagrees: "It's all about market sentiment with British Biotech. There has been big turnover in the senior management and there has been too much factoring-in of hope and enthusiasm".

BZW says that the fair value is nearer 125p, which means the shares have further to fall. "There has been no fresh news and this combined with the management problems has culminated in uncertainties," it says. "The market is running scared".

Colley also points out competition is intensifying.



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Brown labours at birth of Thatcher's dream

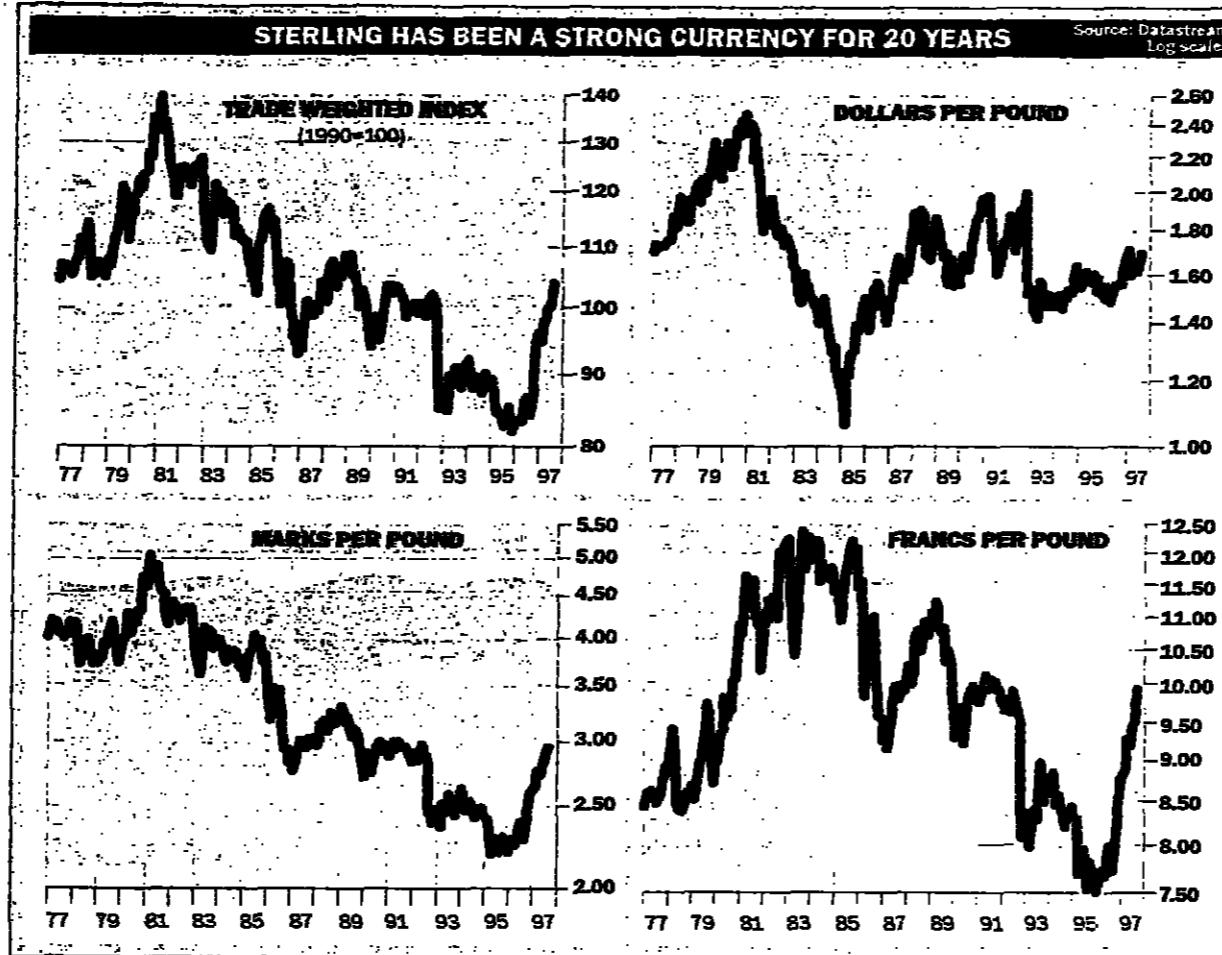
Higher rates and a strong pound will lose jobs and hurt investment

Welcome to post-industrial Britain. The great work begun by Margaret Thatcher will be completed by Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Eddie George. The dark satanic mills that blighted the countryside will be closed down, the industrial proletariat will be decimated for the second time in a generation and Britain will become the purely middle-class nation of shopkeepers of which Lady Thatcher had always dreamt.

Let me begin by quoting the Bank's statement that sent this clear message, albeit in code: "The combination of rapid expansion of domestic demand led by consumption and the further appreciation of sterling has sharpened the dilemmas for monetary policy. A further tightening of monetary policy was necessary, notwithstanding the further appreciation of sterling and the contrarian effects of the recent Budget."

These phrases showed that the Bank was well aware of the economic and social implications of what it had done. The "further appreciation of sterling" will go much further and will aggravate the "dilemma for monetary policy" by doing the manufacturing economy irreparable damage. But the Bank has shown by its action that neither its calculations will pay scant attention either to the economic damage from an overvalued exchange rate or to the benign effects of inflation of a strong pound. If the deflationary implications of the strong pound do not impress the Bank, why should they frighten investors? Once the psychological barrier at DM3 is broken, it is hard to see what would stop the markets moving on to challenge the next major target, the Lawson peaks of 1988/89.

To gauge the full significance of the Bank's policy we must look beyond short-term market implications of the policy dilemma created by a very strong pound. A rapidly rising real exchange rate is the most powerful and precisely-targeted weapon ever devised for destroying manufacturing industries in a market economy. A strong currency selectively culls manufacturing companies and discourages investment in the production of goods, since in a global economy all manufactured goods are exposed to international competition, whether they are made specifically for exports or sold only on the home market. Most services, by contrast, have to be produced on the consumer's doorstep, making



many service providers are completely immune to an overvalued exchange rate. In fact, many service businesses — retailers for example — benefit from a high currency. Lower import prices increase real incomes and thereby stimulate consumption, at least until the closure of manufacturing businesses and the resulting layoffs offset this effect. Even those services that are internationally traded, such as finance, can often thrive in exchange conditions that are ruinous to manufacturing companies — for reasons explained below.

But before examining this issue, let me deal with the main objection to this whole line of argument. Practical people often argue that Britain has had a weak currency for decades, while Japan and Germany, the world's most successful industrial nations, have lived quite happily with the strong yen and mark. The idea that a country can learn to love a strong currency is partly true, but it misses three crucial objections.

First, it is simply not true that the pound has been a chronically weak currency. In the past 20 years, the pound has exactly held its value on a trade-weighted basis and against the US dollar. It has fallen against the mark and the yen, but has risen significantly against the three other G7 currencies (Canadian dollar, Italian lira and French franc). Admittedly, the pound declined against most currencies in the 30 years before 1977. But if we look back to the 1950s, why not consider the decades before that? On a truly long-term view, taking in the whole of this century, the pound has been a far stronger currency than either the yen or

In Britain, there are thousands of ill-equipped companies

the mark. Furthermore, the periods of the pound's greatest relative strength — the 1920s, 1930s and 1950s — have coincided with the fastest relative decline of Britain's manufacturing sector.

The second point — really the mirror image of the first — is that both Japan and Germany began with incredibly cheap exchange rates after the Second World War. The fastest build-up of their industries coincided with the period of most extreme undervaluation of the mark and yen.

The third objection to emulating the Germans and Japanese in their attitude to

ing from weak manufacturing investment ever since.

Figures published last week by the Institute for the German Economy in Köln show just how much competitiveness Germany in particular has lost in the last few years. An hour of labour in west German manufacturing industry cost an average of DM47.28, including wages, social security taxes, holiday pay, health costs and pensions. This was almost double the comparable figures for America and Britain, which were respectively DM26.60 and DM22.68. But lest this vast difference be attributed simply to excessive taxes and social overheads, it should be noted that French and Italian costs, at DM30.82 and DM27.92 respectively, were much nearer the the strong pound.

In Britain, many feel Pirc fulfills a role but often goes too far — in the words of one fund manager "when they launch the Exocet, they should stand back, not chase it". Guy Jubb, corporate governance director at Standard Life, gives Pirc reserved praise. He says: "They have ensured that a number of important and sensitive issues have been aired in public debate," but adds: "Standard Life prefers to seek a constructive and partnership-based dialogue."

Standing a mere 5ft. Anne Simpson, the better known of Pirc's joint managing directors, does not look like one who would fire Exocets. Picking her way through Pirc's cluttered home, she apologises for the mess. "We're trying to find somewhere new. We've got 25 people now and we're bursting at the seams in here."

Still it is better than the

original offices. When Pirc was founded by the other joint MD, Alan MacDougall, as an adviser to local authority pension funds 11 years ago, it was based in two rooms of the Bon Marché Business Centre in Brixton. The location reinforced the City's bias against Pirc as a "bunch of left-wing troublemakers" and "a mouthpiece of disaffected public sector."

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It's the little things Oasis do that mean a lot - like being fair with singles, for a start

Send them victorious

As you may have noticed at the time, the papers and television were full of news and comment about the handover. Trevor McDonald presented a special report on *News At Ten*, bursting with lots of whizzy graphics; the tabloids took their customary in-depth breeze through the hard facts, backed up with lots of pictures of young women in short skirts. Then, on the stroke of midnight, the Historical Event itself took place.

Record stores all over the country opened as the clocks turned 12 so that loads of men in expensive anoraks could lay claim to buying one of the first 250,000 copies of *D'You Know What I Mean?* Now the singles charts have been formally handed back to Oasis.

Their first new single for 18 months has already gone platinum and the world is, once again, filled with the joyful sounds of a man shouting over a wall of guitars.

The continuing success of Oasis bemuses many. When they first plop-rolled on to the scene, with their fists rammed in their pockets and their expressions oscillating between "mad for it" and "mardy", many explained Oasis away as a public hunger for a bit of rough.

A year later, their ongoing chart-toppingness was rationalised as a simple bout of nostalgia. The Beatles versus Oasis wars were kick-started, and many arts commentators decided Oasis fever was just a longing for an almost remedial traditionalism.

This time around, no one's saying anything - yet - because the Spice Girls aren't doing anything until Christmas, and you should never look a gift news story in the mouth. Especially when that news story would probably thump you if you got any-where near its mouth.

So why are Oasis still so huge? Well, obviously, the melodies and the voice are still insistently brilliant.

Also, Oasis have reached that point in their career where they have ceased to be a band and have become a



CAITLIN MORAN

national signifier for Britishness, like Union Jack pants and disappointingly mean sandwiches.

We won't all suddenly stop buying their records and going to their concerts, in the same way we wouldn't suddenly decide to stop using the phone or eating crisps. A lot of Oasis-love can be traced back to the aforementioned remedial traditionalism. In a world where bands have new directions, hair-restructuring and makeovers every other Wednesday, Oasis remain reassuringly Oasis-like at all times.

But Oasis's trump-card is, as Noel Gallagher has frequently explained to the frustration of journalists looking for a more thrilling quote: "People know what they want, maaaaa."

Put more complicatedly, the process of buying a single has, these days, become as tricky and decision-filled as deciding on a personal pension scheme, or a particular "pulling" lipstick while in a hurry.

Wandering into a record shop, intending to buy a kicking tune heard blaring from next door's builder's radio, one is presented with a panic-inducing panoply of "choice" these days. The seven-inch is pressed in exciting tangerine-coloured vinyl; but the twelve-inch has an "extra bonus track".

Buying "CD one of a two-CD box set" facilitates listening to a "new" B-side, but also means sifting through two remixes and a "Ha! No one's ever going to listen to it, are they?" demo.

The other CD has the other new B-side, which is better than the song on CD one but also has a remix of the terrible first single, and a horrible live version of *White Lines (Don't Do It)*, for which the band have been "joined" by a member of Big Country.

It all makes the experience of buying a single more expensive and more stressful but also much less illegal than simply taping your current fave rave off the radio.

Oasis are one of the few bands to have bucked this trend. An Oasis single always has three brand new, top-



Walking tall in the marketing wasteland: the cover of Oasis's *D'You Know What I Mean?*

notch B-sides on it - *Acquiesce*, *Rockin' Chair*, *The Masterplan* and *Talk Tonight* could all have been A-sides - and comes in "just the one format".

This means buying an Oasis single evokes giddy childhood memories of toting to Woolworths, pocket money clutched in sticky paws, in order to blow it all on the new

Smiths single and a pleasantly indecisive ten minutes in the Pick'n'Mix.

It may all seem a small point, but it's probably one of the most important when one boggles at the continuing enormity of Oasis. They don't treat their musical career as a cynical exercise in marketing, and have returned to the old ethos of putting out records

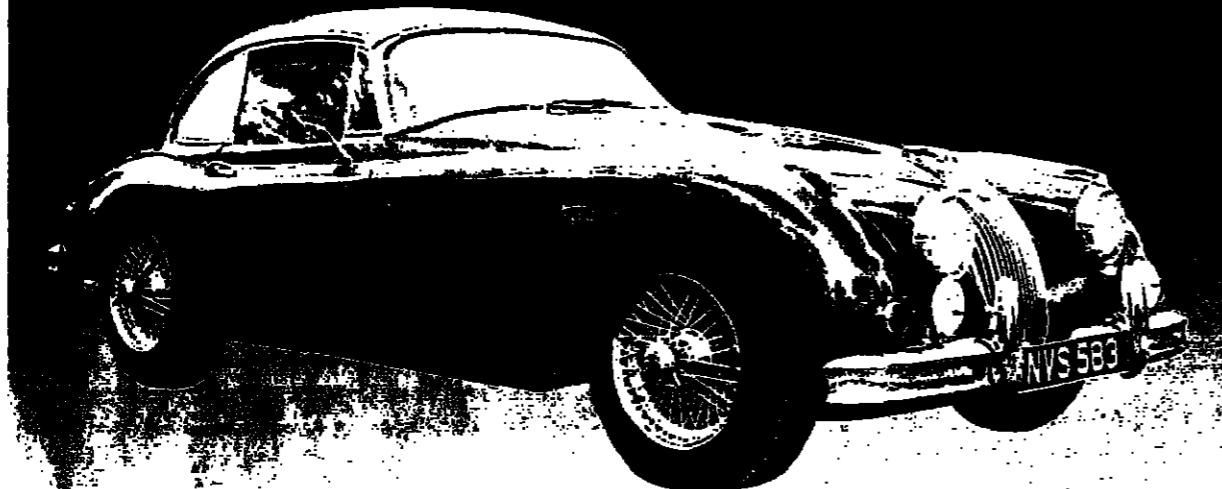
that are good, with as much value for money as is humanly possible, in one, simple to use, easy to clean format.

You don't need a *Which?* guide to remixes and B-sides to buy an Oasis single. Which, to judge from the bleary state of the beer-boys buying *D'You Know What I Mean?* at midnight on Monday, is just as well.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

Win a Jaguar XK 150 classic worth £30,000



Today *The Times* gives you the chance to win a beautiful classic car, the Jaguar XK 150 coupé, pictured, in our exclusive competition. Just a glance is enough to understand why the British show such enthusiasm for classic cars. It is an instant head-turner. This distinct coupé has been mildly modified for the sporting driver. Finished in classic British Racing Green,

retrimmed in tan leather, it has walnut veneer dashboard and a stainless steel sports exhaust (it sounds magnificent). Add to all that a high standard of restoration, a boot badge boasting Jaguar's five 1950s Le Mans wins, a manual close ratio gearbox, handsome chrome wire wheels and louvred bonnet and you have a car that will be the envy of everyone you know.

For your chance to win this legendary classic, call our competition hotline with your answer to this question:

How many times did Jaguar win Le Mans in the 1950s?

0891 40 50 20
(EU and ROI +44 990 100 320)

The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. The lines will be open until midnight on Monday, July 14. Normal Times newspapers competition rules apply. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. • Car kindly supplied by The Garage on the Green, Dulham, London, retailers of fine classic and modern vehicles. Enquiries: 0171-384 1100.

CHANGING TIMES

Dangerous too? No

He has been married twice, divorced once, ensnared in a child abuse scandal and become a father since he last toured Britain. But the intervening years dissolved like snow in the sun as soon as the extraordinarily lithe figure of Michael Jackson burst on to the stage of the 50,000-capacity Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield.

The 39-year-old superstar arrived in the nose cone of a rocket. Dressed in gold, robot-like armour-plating he opened proceedings with *Scream*, a razor-sharp distillation of space-age angst that reverberated around the huge venue with steely might.

In the ensuing two-and-a-half hours Jackson powered his way through a show that touched on most aspects of his extraordinary career. There were moments of cartoon drama during the dance routines of *Thriller* and *Smooth Criminal*; bathtubs when Jackson threw himself in front of a tank (seriously) that rolled on to the stage during *Earth Song*; and at least one instance of unintentional farce when a girl from the audience, brought on stage to bond with Jackson during *You Are Not Alone*, got carried away and had to be prised, kicking and screaming, from her idol.

A medley of Jackson Five

hits, including *I Want You Back* and *I'll Be There*, was accompanied by a collage of baby pictures and home movies. Falling on one knee and covering his eyes with his hands, Jackson milked the moment of nostalgia.

Among other stunts, Jack-

son was "buried" under a huge bank of fake speaker stacks at the end of *Black or White*, encased in an Iron Maiden during *Thriller* and hoisted above the crowd during *Earth Song*, which was essentially a reprise of the Messiah-like image that so irked Jarvis Cocker during Jackson's set at the Brit Awards last year.

The set was punctuated with snippets of video footage from Jackson's back catalogue - including sequences from *Thriller*, *Dangerous*, *Remember the Time*, and many more; truly an embarrassment of riches.

Jackson's dancing was sensational, especially the moonwalking routines during *Billie Jean* and *Beat It*, and his singing scarcely less so. But, for all the stickiness of its presentation and attention to detail there was a lack of emotional engagement at the heart of the show.

Jackson is a consummate performer and still the king of pop, whatever his detractors say, but he has become a distant and isolated figure, a predicament which this show, for all its theatrical skill, did little to address.

DAVID SINCLAIR

• This review appeared in later editions of The Times yesterday

When tight is right

JAZZ

MIKE STERN
Barbican Hall

When Mike Stern's most famous employer, Miles Davis, supplemented the Boston-born musician with fellow guitarist John Scofield in the trumpeter's 1980s "comeback" band, he commented: "I thought that if Mike listened to John, he might learn something about understatement."

Verbosity has frequently been seen as Stern's hallmark. Once he steps to the front of the stage and begins soloing, music just seems to pour out of him.

Since leaving Davis's outfit, however, Stern has disciplined himself, so that whereas formerly notes tumbled over each other, in a somewhat undignified, promiscuous rush, they are now carefully controlled.

Stern will always be garrulous, but these days what he says makes perfect sense; he's even emulated Scofield in a way Davis could not have predicted by opting for saxophonists - initially fellow Davis alumnus Bob Berg, now West Coast tenor player Bob Sheppard - as front-line partners, and his current rhythm section, bassist Lincoln Goines

and fusion drummer supreme Dave Weckl, impose further tightness on his sound.

That sound, too, has changed since the mid-1980s.

"Head-banging" guitar might reasonably have described his approach then; rock-based effects - screaming climaxes, distortion - littered his solos. Now his sound is a great deal more homogeneous: an attractive, spangly, long-lined lyricism that might reasonably be mistaken for a slightly more vigorous (and prolif) version of John Abercrombie.

To judge by the reaction of a

large and vociferous Barbican audience, Stern's is a formula with great popular appeal. Leavening typically punchy, straightforward material with moody, jazzy shuffles, and combining tellingly with the pleasantly throaty Sheppard, Stern produced 90 minutes of full-throttle, muscular fusion in which the fast and furious was mixed with just the right amount of restraint and taste, and the musicianly qualities of the quartet unaffectedly showcased.

Stern once explained his musical provenance to the Paris-based journalist Mike Zwerin thus: "I grew up with the Beatles and then fell in love with jazz. I came by both honesty. That may be my biggest dilemma or gift. I'm not sure which - probably both."

That was the 1980s: now, Stern has produced a genuine fusion between the immediate accessibility of rock and the rhythmic and harmonic subtlety of jazz, and what was once undoubtedly something of a dilemma has been transformed into a gift.

CHRIS PARKER

HMV firstforsingles

THE WORLD TONIGHT



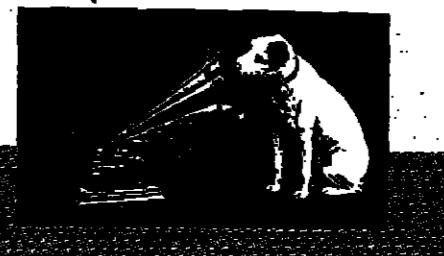
the world tonight PAUL McCARTNEY

The new single from the highly acclaimed album 'Flaming Pie'

Out now on special 7" picture disc, CD1 & CD2

new release CD & 12" singles from £1.99

new release 7" & cassette singles from 99p



5:15am الاصبح

Old big hare is back in the hutch

ALBUMS: Down? Gloomy? Still missing arch-goths Echo & the Bunnymen? If so, David Sinclair has good news for you

ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN

Evergreen
(London 328 905 £13.99)
AS A symbol of what happened to British pop in the 1980s, Liverpool's Echo & the Bunnymen were perfect. Moody and magnificent in a stunted, self-consciously English way, they talked a good fight, but seemed to lose their bottle when anything but the most parochial sort of greatness beckoned.

After the defection of singer Ian McCulloch and the death of drummer Pete De Freitas, the band eventually fizzled out in 1992. But, despite the blots that marked their copybook by then — and there were many — a sense of unfinished business remained, as the group had never quite made the best album they had in them.

Evergreen is certainly not it but, as these sort of reunions go, it is more satisfying than most. Featuring McCulloch, together again for the first time since 1988 with founder members Will Sergeant (guitar) and Les Pattison (bass), the 12 new songs all have that epic yet lifting quality, laced with a hint of darkness, that was the Bunnymen's stock-in-trade. *Baseball Bill*, with its pugnacious lyric ("Are you looking at me?") is the most obvious out-and-out rocker, but more typical are songs such as

Nothing Lasts Forever and *Altamont*, which proceed at a dignified pace and conjure the philosophical air of men who have returned to the fray a little older and wiser.

"There's no more wishes in the well/No more dreams to sell," McCulloch sings on the title track. Maybe not. But even if it wins them a few new fans, *Evergreen* is certain to revive old allegiances, and does so with some style.

PAULA COLE

This Fire
(Imago/Warner Bros. 9362-46424
£13.99)

OF THE many babes with attitude to have come along in the wake of Alanis Morissette, Paula Cole from Massachusetts is one of the more intriguing. An alumnus of the Berklee College of Music in Boston, she is both an accomplished musician and a fiercely emotional performer. On *This Fire*, her second album, she combines outre outpourings of anger with accessible pop tunes, although not necessarily the songs they had in them.

Most people will recognise her current hit, *Where Have All The Cowboys Gone?*, a seductive melody with a lyric apparently lamenting the passing of the traditional sexual stereotypes — "I'll raise

children if you pay all the bills" — but no doubt subject to a heavily ironic subtext.

At the other extreme is *Nietzsche's Eyes*, a dramatic, Tori Amosish affair with a piano and vihuela pipes accompaniment, at the end of which Cole's voice is left stranded on its own in the mix, spitting out syllables with a raw mixture of venomous rage and unbearable desperation.

Somewhere between the two are any number of songs — such as

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1 (1) The Fat of the Land	Prodigy (XL Recordings)
2 (2) OK Computer	Radiohead (Parlophone)
3 (3) Heavy Soul	Paul Weller (Island)
4 (4) Vanishing Point	Primal Scream (Creation)
5 (5) Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin)
6 (6) Before the Rain	Elton (EMI)
7 (7) Essentials	David Gates & Bread (Warner ESP/Jive)
8 (8) Stoosh	Skunk Anansie (One Little Indian)
9 (9) Come Find Yourself	Fun Lovin' Criminals (Chrysalis)
10 (10) Guns in the Ghetto	UB40 (Dep International)

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Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

TODD TERRY

Ready for a New Day
(Manifesto/Mercury 536 076
£13.99)

"IN THE beginning he created a groove/And with this groove he made us move/And it set our souls free/House was a way of life..." So begins the gospel according to Todd Terry, the American house music DJ, producer and remix specialist, who is known among writers

of the specialist club-music magazines.

For Terry the beat is the thing, the more insistently pneumatic and unyielding the better. But, while tracks such as *Free Yourself* and *Come on Baby* are simple grooves decorated with even simpler phrases such as "Come on baby" or "Ain't nothing but a party going on", sampled and repeated ad nauseam, elsewhere Terry strikes a better balance between the demands of feet and feeling.

His hit of last year, *Keep On Jumpin'*, and the current single, *Something Goin' On*, are two of several numbers featuring the soul diva vocalise of Martha Wash and Jocelyn Brown, while *Ready for a New Day* (also featuring Wash)

brings a touch of gospel-style exuberance to the relentless four-on-the-floor pulse.

UB40

Guns in the Ghetto
(Dep International/Virgin 7243 8
44402 £14.49)

THE imagery of the title might suggest a return to the agit-reggae roots of early albums such as *Present Arms*, but UB40 are far too set in their mainstream pop ways for that to happen now.

True, the song *Guns in the Ghetto* is an emotional plea for an end to the widespread carrying and use of guns in Jamaica, where most of the album was written and recorded, but, as with the rest of the tracks on this somewhat slender

volume (running time just 38 minutes), it is couched in tones of such elegant and leisurely politesse that you would never mistake it for a protest song.

Like a vintage wine, UB40's brand of reggae has matured slowly and unevenly, incorporating none of the more recently imported flavours of the raggapop and dancehall acts (although there are plans to release a DJ/dancehall version of this album later in the year). Rather than innovation, their sound is subject to increasing sophistication, whether it be the smoochy *I Love It When You Smile* or the soothing *Oracabessa Moonshine*, which will do wonders for the local tourist industry, if nothing else.

Paul Sexton on the sell-off that saw a generation of classics change hands

Motown put the soul in sold

Songwriters often say that their compositions are like children to them. Last week's purchase by EMI Music Publishing of a 50 per cent share in Motown Music, a vast mansion of memories containing all the golden songs of Motown Records, underlined the fact that many of those children now have foster-parents.

EMI Music's cheque for \$132 million finally coaxed classics such as *I Heard it Through the Grapevine*, *Baby Love* and *The Tears of a Clown* from the loving embrace of Berry Gordy, the man who built and ran the Motown dreamhouse after founding Motown in 1959. EMI Music chairman and CEO, Marty Bandier, had pursued the prize of Motown's 15,000-odd songs for 20 years and Gordy, himself a songwriter in Motown's formative years, had snubbed many previous suitors, including the acquisitive Michael Jackson.

Gordy remains chairman and principal shareholder of Motown, but the deal effectively ends the autonomy of one of the mighties of independent music publishers. Berry will still get to visit the kids at weekends, but the vintage songs of Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and Holland-Dozier-Holland will be staying somewhere new on workdays.

In picking up the key to Motown's heritage, EMI Music adds a formidable new facet to an already vast publishing portfolio and will begin to work the Motown catalogue, going about the publisher's business of exploiting the songs in films, television, and encouraging cover versions by modern artists.

The deal brought a rare moment of publicity for one of the most vibrant yet unseen activities in all showbusiness. It is as pivotal an aspect of music as the record business to which it is a brother, yet the world of publishing is a no-profile activity to the average record buyer. "I don't think most people are aware of what publishing is at all," says Mark Anderson, managing director of the UK division of the independent, family-run company Bug Music. "Most



Motown's memory makers: Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson and Stevie Wonder

people buy a record and see the record as being the song, whereas it's two different things. A song is an intangible, it almost doesn't exist. It's something you can sing, and you can print out the notes, but it's not the same as a record."

"We are low profile, and we want to keep it like that," says EMI Music's UK managing director, Peter Reichardt. "Even inside the business, a lot of people say to me: 'We don't quite understand what it is you do.' I say: 'You should find out, because we have been around a lot longer than you have'."

Wheeling and dealing in copyrights as they do, major publishers may appear to be no more than the music industry's estate agents, but publishers both large and small are often a pillar of financial and creative support to the songwriter. At any gig by a nascent talent, artist and repertoire reps from record companies will be shoulder to shoulder with their publishing counterparts, every bit as keen to acquire song rights as the labels are to nail the act for a recording deal.

Bug Music operates unlike many other publishers in that it represents the work of

songwriters, but the composer retains ownership of his copyrights. Bug administers the catalogues of such seasoned performers as Iggy Pop, Richard Thompson, Lou Reed, and a swathe of blues copyright-holders. Bug works hard at placing songs to generate both fees and profile for its authors, but none of them is going to turn on the TV and hear their song in a cornflakes ad unless they have given the go-ahead.

"Under our agreement we can't grant a right for a song to be used in, say, a commercial unless the writer agrees," says Anders. "But people want their songs heard. These days the question I get asked most often is 'Can you get my songs in films?'

With the Motown sale, the independent sector may be weakened, but not hobbled. One of America's greatest pop songwriting duos, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, recently chose the independent Rondor Music, and not one of their many bigger sitters, to represent their treasure trove of 1950s and 1960s hits in Britain and parts of Europe.

Publishing history is full of tales of wicked stepfathers exploiting innocent songs while their real parents watch helplessly after signing the adoption papers. In 1965 Paul McCartney was dismayed to be outbid for his and John Lennon's catalogue by Michael Jackson, especially when the former Beatle discovered his old friend was making more money out of *Yesterday* than he was.

"Memories belong to a certain generation," says White, "and clearly the generation that grew up on Motown keep a special place in their heart for these songs. But songs must keep their emotional power from one generation to the next and, if they're interpreted with respect, that can happen."

If, as Reichardt promises, EMI Music handles its Motown inheritance with care, there ought not to be a return to the kind of song placement that once saw the Four Tops dressed in gorilla suits singing *Reach Out (I'll Be There)* for an American fizzy drink commercial.

"Motown is now in much better hands, we're far better equipped to look after it," says Reichardt. "Publishers do have a responsibility for maintaining the image of songs. We get asked all the time for the right to use songs in commercials, but if it's wrong for the song, we say no."

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Court to set life tariff for young person

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Furber

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Owen [Judgment June 30]

A court should set the minimum tariff when sentencing a young person to detention for life under section 53(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and that tariff should generally be half the appropriate determinate sentence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment when granting an application by Donna Furber for judicial review of a decision by the Home Secretary on March 12, 1996 that the tariff period of her sentence was seven years.

The court made a declaration that had the Home Secretary directed himself in accordance with the law as now established by *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Venables* (*The Times* June 13, 1997) 3 WLR 23, he could not properly have certified a period exceeding that which the applicant had already served in detention.

In December 1996, following a guilty plea at Manchester Crown Court (Judge Rhys Davies, QC) to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility, the applicant aged 17 at the time of the conviction, was sentenced, by exercise of the judge's statutory discretion as a young person, to detention for life under section 53(2) of the 1933 Act for killing her great aunt.

The trial judge recommended

ten years to meet the requirements of retribution and deterrence. Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, recommended nine to ten years.

In 1994 the Home Secretary certified under paragraph 9 of Schedule 12 to the Criminal Justice Act 1991 because the case came under the transitional provisions of the Act, that section 34 of that Act should apply and that the relevant part of the sentence, the tariff period, was nine years.

The applicant complained that the tariff was excessive and the case was referred to Lord Taylor, then Lord Chief Justice, for reconsideration. In January 1996 he advised the Home Secretary that the tariff period to be reduced by seven years and the home secretary accepted that advice.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC and Miss Philippa Kauffmann for the applicant: Mr Hugo Keith for the Home Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that two central submissions were advanced.

First, it was said that on the facts of the case seven years was so manifestly excessive a tariff period for a young person that it should be held irrational.

Second, the question of the appropriate tariff was approached on an erroneous legal basis, in particular the requirement, it being a section 53(2) case, that regard should be had to the applicant's welfare, as specified by section 4(1) of the 1933 Act, was not recognised.

What was involved in the fixing of a tariff under section 34 was

explained in *R v O'Connor* ([1994] 15 Cr App R (S) 473, 475-6). As to the proportion between half and two thirds to be specified, there was little help from the authorities: see *R v Vale* ([1996] 1 Cr App R (S) 405, 409-10) and *Practice Direction (Crimes, Life sentences)* ([1993] 1 WLR 223).

When certifying a period under paragraph 9 the Home Secretary had to adopt an identical approach: he had to put himself in the position of the sentencing court and ask what period it would have fixed had section 34 been in force at the time of sentence: see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte McCartney* (*The Times* May 25, 1994). It was helpful to indicate the range of sentences found in reports of diminished responsibility manslaughter cases.

It was his Lordship's view that because *McCartney* enjoined the Home Secretary in paragraph 9 cases to put himself in the position of the sentencing court, which by definition would have passed sentence before any bracket for section 34 tariffs could be established, therefore he, and accordingly the present court, should ignore the Court of Appeal decision in the section 34 case.

On the facts of the case, Mr Fitzgerald submitted that had even the applicant been an adult, a seven year tariff, equivalent to a determinate sentence of 10½ to 14 years, would have been too long for a young person he contended that it was manifestly excessive.

Youth was important in two respects. First, it lessened the extent of the offender's culpability.

Second, however, it introduced a quite different dimension into the case: the requirement imposed by section 4(1) of the 1933 Act.

It was necessary to turn to *Ex parte Venables*, delivered on the first day of the present hearing.

Mr Justice Owen agreed.

Solicitors: Graysons, Sheffield; Treasury Solicitor.

tariff equated to a determinate sentence of nine to twelve years and an eight year tariff to one of 12 to 16 years. One could not but recognise an apparent discordance between the two categories of case.

It was one thing for the court to recognise the possible anomalies in the approach to section 34 tariffs; another to conclude as the applicant urged that in those circumstances the court should pay more heed to the established range for determinate sentences than to the section 34 cases themselves.

It was his Lordship's view that because *McCartney* enjoined the Home Secretary in paragraph 9 cases to put himself in the position of the sentencing court, which by definition would have passed sentence before any bracket for section 34 tariffs could be established, therefore he, and accordingly the present court, should ignore the Court of Appeal decision in the section 34 case.

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which was a section 53(1) case but nevertheless one of undoubted importance too when it came to fixing tariffs for juveniles sentenced to detention for life under section 53(2).

The majority of the House of Lords had rejected the approach, advanced by the Home Secretary in the present case, that there was no authority for the proposition that the punitive period should be the minimum period possible or that the approach to juveniles should be different to that for adults.

That was clearly no longer a permissible view. Rather in the case of young persons, the court should set the minimum tariff so that the Parole Board might begin their consideration of the case sooner rather than later.

What then should determine the minimum tariff? It was interesting to note the decision of the Court of Appeal in *R v Carr* ([1996] 1 Cr App R (S) 191), another discretionary life sentence case under section 53(2) albeit one imposed for causing grievous bodily harm.

There, the court took half rather than two thirds of the appropriate determinate sentence when arriving at the specified period under section 34. In his Lordship's judgment, following the House of Lords' decision, that generally now should be regarded as the correct approach on section 53(2) cases.

Mr Justice Owen agreed.

Solicitors: Graysons, Sheffield; Treasury Solicitor.

Part-time student entitled to seek benefit

Chief Adjudication Officer v Webber

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse [Judgment July 11]

A person who embarked on a three-year course of study as a full-time student but in his second year continued the course as a part-time student was not excluded from entitlement to income support by virtue of being deemed to be available for and actively seeking employment.

The Court of Appeal so ruled when unanimously dismissing an appeal by the Chief Adjudication Officer from the decision of the Court of Appeal in *R v Carr* ([1996] 1 Cr App R (S) 191), another discretionary life sentence case under section 53(2) albeit one imposed for causing grievous bodily harm.

On the facts of the case, Mr Fitzgerald submitted that had even the applicant been an adult, a seven year tariff, equivalent to a determinate sentence of 10½ to 14 years, would have been too long for a young person he contended that it was manifestly excessive.

Youth was important in two respects. First, it lessened the extent of the offender's culpability.

Second, however, it introduced a quite different dimension into the case: the requirement imposed by section 4(1) of the 1933 Act.

It was necessary to turn to *Ex parte Venables*, delivered on the first day of the present hearing.

Mr Justice Owen agreed.

Solicitors: Graysons, Sheffield; Treasury Solicitor.

In September 1992 the claimant began a modular course in environmental biology at Oxford Brookes University. Attendance at the university was either full-time or part-time depending on the number of modules being taken by the student during any particular term.

In his first year the claimant had to obtain nine modules and then a further nine in each of the last two years. He failed two compulsory and one other module which he resat in his third term but did not pass.

At the end of the third term the university told him he could start only as a part-time student in his second year. He re-registered as a part-time student and applied for income support in October 1993.

Mr Drabble argued that where the course had a variable character it was necessary to determine the character of the course, namely, full-time or part-time, at each relevant stage, and during the academic year 1993-94 the claimant was not attending a full-time course.

On the other hand Mr Rabinder Singh for the Chief Adjudication Officer, Mr Richard Hobhouse, QC, for the claimant.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that under the Social Security and Benefits Act 1992 it was a requirement of entitlement to income support that a claimant be available for and actively seeking employment.

Under regulation 10 of the Income Support (General Regulations) ([1997] No 1967) "a claimant shall not be treated as available for employment if... he is a student during the period of study".

Regulation 61 stated, inter alia, that "a person who has started on a full-time course of study shall be treated as attending it throughout any period of term or vacation within it until the last day of the course or such earlier date as he abandons it or is dismissed from it..."

The "last day of the course" was defined as "the date on which the last day of the final academic term falls in respect of the course in which the student is enrolled..."

The feature of the regulations which gave rise to the present problems was that the status of student depended on the categorisation of the course on which the student was enrolled. The definition of "course of study" required that it was a "full-time" course.

It thus presupposed that it was possible at the outset to categorise the course as being either full-time or part-time and applied that categorisation to the whole of the period of study from the start of the course to its last day.

The assumption did not accord with the practice of universities and other institutions of advanced education. Some of the courses offered included a large element of flexibility and might provide for the course to be partly full-time and partly part-time. The regulations did not on their face take account of such flexibility.

Adjudication Officer (unreported, December 6, 1996) and the frequency with which points had arisen on that definition led one to wonder whether the draftsmen of the regulations had properly in mind the wide variety of advanced education courses available to students today and the range of differing circumstances in which students who had embarked on such courses might subsequently find themselves.

For reasons which were in substance those advanced by Mr Drabble the appeal failed.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS, agreeing with Lord Justice Peter Gibson, said that it was one thing to treat a person as a full-time student at times when, although such a student he was not in fact attending the course, but quite another to rely upon the deem-ing provision to create a status as student which did not in fact exist.

In the *Clarke and Faul* case, during the academic year in question the claimants were not members of the university, and so far as the university and the claimants were concerned, their year of intercalation was annus non.

In plain English, they were given leave of absence from their course, and for that period they ceased to be students on that or any other course.

In the present case the claimant remained a student, but in fact a part-time student whom the regulations did not exclude from entitlement to income support.

By parity of reasoning, the deeming provision could not be relied on to create a status of full-time student which did not in fact exist. Ultimately that was a question of statutory interpretation.

In the present case the statute was thought to have been drafted in such a way as to create, for no apparent reason, an anomalous class of people left to desist without state support of any kind.

Express words of the utmost clarity would be required to persuade his Lordship that Parliament intended to produce that disgraceful result.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Department of Social Security; Mr Justin Phipps, Oxford.

No merit in appeal

Johnson v Blackpool General Commissioners

Johnson and Another v Same

An appeal by Mr W. J. Johnson from the judgment of Mr Justice Robert Walker ([1996] 1 StC 277) that the claimant was not entitled to income support.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT, sitting with Lord Justice Smart and Lord Justice Schiemann, said that there was no merit in the appeal from the decision of the judge holding that to comply with a precept to produce books, accounts and other documents for inspection by a tax inspector a taxpayer must make them available at a time that was reasonable, not at his home at one minute before midnight.

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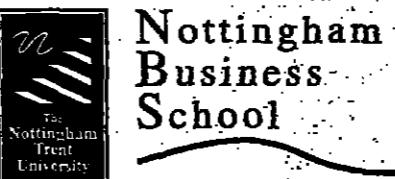
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EDUCATION

Back from the future

Nicolete Jones
attends a
school reunion
and finds
that though
times change,
people do not

When Anne Bechar (née Berwen) set out to find the 30, or so women — myself included — who were at Leeds Girls' High School with her until 1977, she was, she admits, partly motivated by wanting to tell the good news.

"I wasn't very academic at school, and I felt I was a nobody," she says. "Now I have lived for two years in Paris and eight years in Israel. I have a family and I run a cheese-producing business that supplies big supermarkets. I feel that I am somebody."

Anne's detective work, and that of our school tennis champion, Rosemary Fenton, resulted in the hacking-down of all but a dozen of our erstwhile cronies. So we were summoned, reeling from the realisation that we had been old girls for 20 years, and 44 of us agreed to show up for a lunch. Another 20 sent news, goodwill and apologies.

So, armed with natty hairstyles and new outfits, wondering whether we would recognise each other, we congregated in a dining hall that made us think of cabbage and spotted dick. By the end of lunch, but for the wine and the absence of pink custard on the pudding, it could have been 20 years ago like a bad episode of *Dallas* in which everything that had happened since was a dream.

It was not simply that in our own eyes we were unchanged, or that the pretty girls were still pretty and the funny ones still funny. It was that we had reverted.

Everyone quickly fell into the roles of two decades ago. Bryony, our head girl, who went on to work with Pakistani refugees and is now a GP in Whitley, asked kind questions of our sixth-form-guide on the post-lunch school tour with exactly the grace towards younger girls that made her popular then. Anne was amiably berated by her friend Ruth for talking down to her, exactly as she had done at school. I showed off.

By the time a group photograph was taken, the photographer found it hard to impose order. Women who, I am sure, are otherwise polite and amenable were suddenly giggly, joshing, mischievous. We had become 14-year-olds in 37-year-old bodies.

The school, whose authori-



Top, the way we were; and below, seemingly composed, but reeling from the realisation that we've been old girls for 20 years

ties had arranged a tour of the new buildings, found us uncooperative. We did not want to see the new language labs and the new music block. Anne and Heather Sudgen wanted to see the toilets they had flooded by turning all the taps on. Others wanted to see the desks they had carved names on. We wanted to meet the ghosts of our childhood selves.

Alison Kerr, a mother of two, stood on the balcony where she had been an infant angel in a halo. We all walked the corridors we had regularly raced down and dawdled in, and remembered.

We were amazed, though, at the well-stocked careers room. In our day, careers advice was a teacher who mostly promoted

a travel agency. And I became a journalist.

Helen, who became a solicitor and went on to marry a Conservative MP, took the prize for having the largest family in the group: four children. Most of us have two. Half a dozen are unmarried, as many divorced and as many childless, at least one by choice. Several have taken degrees as mature students.

We had our share of griefs — divorces and bereavements, for instance — but the great thing was, it didn't show. It was clear we were all more sure of ourselves than at 16 or 18. And we were old enough to realise that there is something special about friends who have known you for a long time.

Helen Penn on what Labour can learn from the failure of nursery vouchers

Without rhyme or reason

The nursery voucher scheme has been promptly dismantled by the new Government — except in Scotland, where a decision has yet to be taken. Are there any lessons to be learned from this sorry exercise?

The vouchers were awarded to parents of four-year-olds to spend on part-time nursery education. They could be used in any registered setting providing an educational curriculum that satisfied Ofsted requirements, be it nursery class, playgroup or private nursery. The scheme aimed to increase parental choice and stimulate growth of services.

It failed on both counts. It did not increase parental choice because there is, overall, a scarcity of provision, nor did it stimulate the private market, mainly because such providers are responding as much to the demand for all-day childcare as for part-time nursery education and, thus, the vouchers met only a part of the costs and were often not worth the effort of administration. In the event, it was local education for four-year-olds in schools, often without due consideration of whether school was a suitable place for them.

The Department for Education and Employment has now issued a circular explaining how the scheme is to be dismantled. A subsequent consultative paper fleshed out some of the ideas contained in the Labour Party policy document *Early Excellence*, such as "development plans" and "early years forums". But *Early Excellence* emphasised the need to review early years policy coherently, and "to bring together education and care...". Services will be geared to meet the particular needs of the child and the parent — offering not only education and care, but family support, nurturing, adult education and parenting skills courses. Policy implementation cannot, of course, be revised overnight, but, unfortunately, the DfEE has not yet



included care in its considerations, and the circular is premised on the same inadequate assumption as the voucher scheme: that the desirable model of expansion is part-time nursery education for four-year-olds.

By now the evidence must show that the voucher scheme, if nothing else, exposed the fragmentation and inadequacy of provision. Many studies of parents' use of nurseries, including the National Children's Bureau research on the voucher scheme, have revealed the daily confusion and juggling working parents face in trying to make arrangements for their young children. As one mother says: "What can you do in two and a half hours? You can't go out to work, you can't even find a part-time job to cover those hours."

Under the *Welfare to Work* programme, the Government is trying to persuade mothers, particularly those on benefits, to return to work. But the very system that might enable them to do so, an integrated care and education system,

as envisioned in *Early Excellence*, is not being promoted. Indeed, there seems to be some doubt about who is actually responsible for developing childcare facilities. While the DfEE claims that it now falls within its remit, it has yet to convince childcare lobbies and social service representatives that it fully comprehends the issues involved in adopting a childcare perspective as well as an education one. And where will the 50,000 new childcare assistants mentioned in the Budget be slotted in? Hiring people straight off the dole queue to work with young children seems an unlikely way to guarantee the high standards demanded by ministers.

Most provision is still in the private and voluntary sector, and parents must pay the market price. The provision is regulated by social service departments under the terms of the Children Act. The regulations focus on health and safety, and require high staff-child ratios. These requirements put up labour costs, usually about 80 per cent of the total. In private nurseries, only middle and upper-income parents can afford the fees. Unlike state nursery education, which must employ qualified teachers, the private and voluntary sector relies mainly on low-paid staff, many of whom are unqualified. The voucher scheme, in linking vouchers to Ofsted inspections, rather than to social service inspections, at least insisted on the importance of educational outcomes. The evidence suggests that these inspections are often seen as helpful by the providers, although many may struggle with the educational requirements for them.

Despite all the fuss, the vouchers made no real difference, and their abolition is unlikely to make much difference. The Government must commit itself to new thinking, and more new money.

• Dr Penn is Senior Research Fellow at the Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education, London University.

It's in Tots
Joan Clancy reflects on how schools have changed

Blackboard yesterday, business plan today

Reeling can feel a bit like falling off a cliff — and one disturbing feature is that your failures keep flashing before you. I was reared as a Scottish Presbyterian during wartime rationing: I do not believe in lavish spending, yet, try as I might to prevent it, costs during my time as head have risen relentlessly. Every pressure was surely the other way: governors wanted to keep fees down, parents made it clear they did not want to pay more. Yet through wage freezes and two recessions, fees have climbed steadily. It has been the same throughout the independent sector. A year's boarding school fees used to cost the equivalent of a Mini, now they are equal to about two Ford Fiestas. Curiously, the market has pushed costs up, not down. When the choice has been between a good school and a cheap school, we, like others, have chosen to be a good school.

The chairman of governors annually seeks to explain "this year's increases". Technology is often cited. In 1975 this school had 800 students, two telephone lines and one full-time and one part-time secretary. The typewriters were vintage and the secretary used to dry out the carbon paper overnight for re-use the next day. There was no photocopier. It would not do today, we would be marked down on quality of printed material.

The little AS prospectus of 1975, with no pictures, would not do either. The school office, with twice the staff, is twice as busy: the appetite for the information it can give is insatiable. Our seven phone lines and 50 internal phones are often inadequate.

What has happened in the office has happened throughout the school. Students will take home reports this term with about a thousand words on them. In 1975 they had about 50 words of the "satisfactory" variety. Old textbooks covered in brown paper are a memory: instead students have files full of notes and worksheets and handouts, without which they could not face an exam — and being examined is a constant activity.

Even the advertisements that schools place in order to recruit staff have become absurdly expensive: placing a small advertisement looks cheap, so one has to show seriousness by placing a big box ad.

Class size is the big issue, of course, and everyone knows it. Try ensuring good "interactive, whole-class teaching" with 30 teenagers, remembering that you want an oral response from each of them during the 57 minutes the period will last. Try taking their 30 essays home to mark and giving each one a fair ten minutes of attention. Try doing that for more than 30 periods in the week — and still sparkle with energy and authority on

more promoted people to help me, and I need them. But they cost more.

My grandmother used to say that "money does not buy happiness but it makes unhappiness a lot easier to bear". In the case of schools, money does not guarantee success but it certainly helps to avoid failure. An austere, blackboard-and-chalk school would not have competed in the independent schools market of the 1980s; if people were going to pay for education, they wanted it to be very good. My regret is the spending gap that exists between us and the maintained sector.

In 1975 we were spending about the same per head: now my school spends £5,000 where the neighbouring comprehensive spends about £2,100.

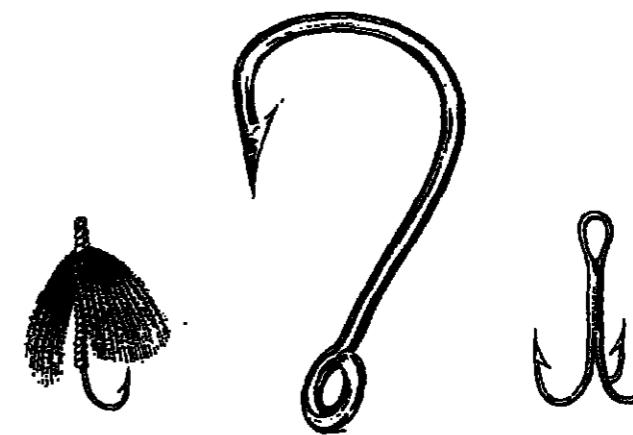
Gordon Brown has given a little, but he, too, will have overcome his Scottishness, and spend a lot more.

• The author is headmistress of North London Collegiate School.

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RACING: TOLLER AND SANDERS ENJOY FIRST GROUP ONE SUCCESS WITH RANK OUTSIDER IN JULY CUP

Punters outfoxed by Compton Place

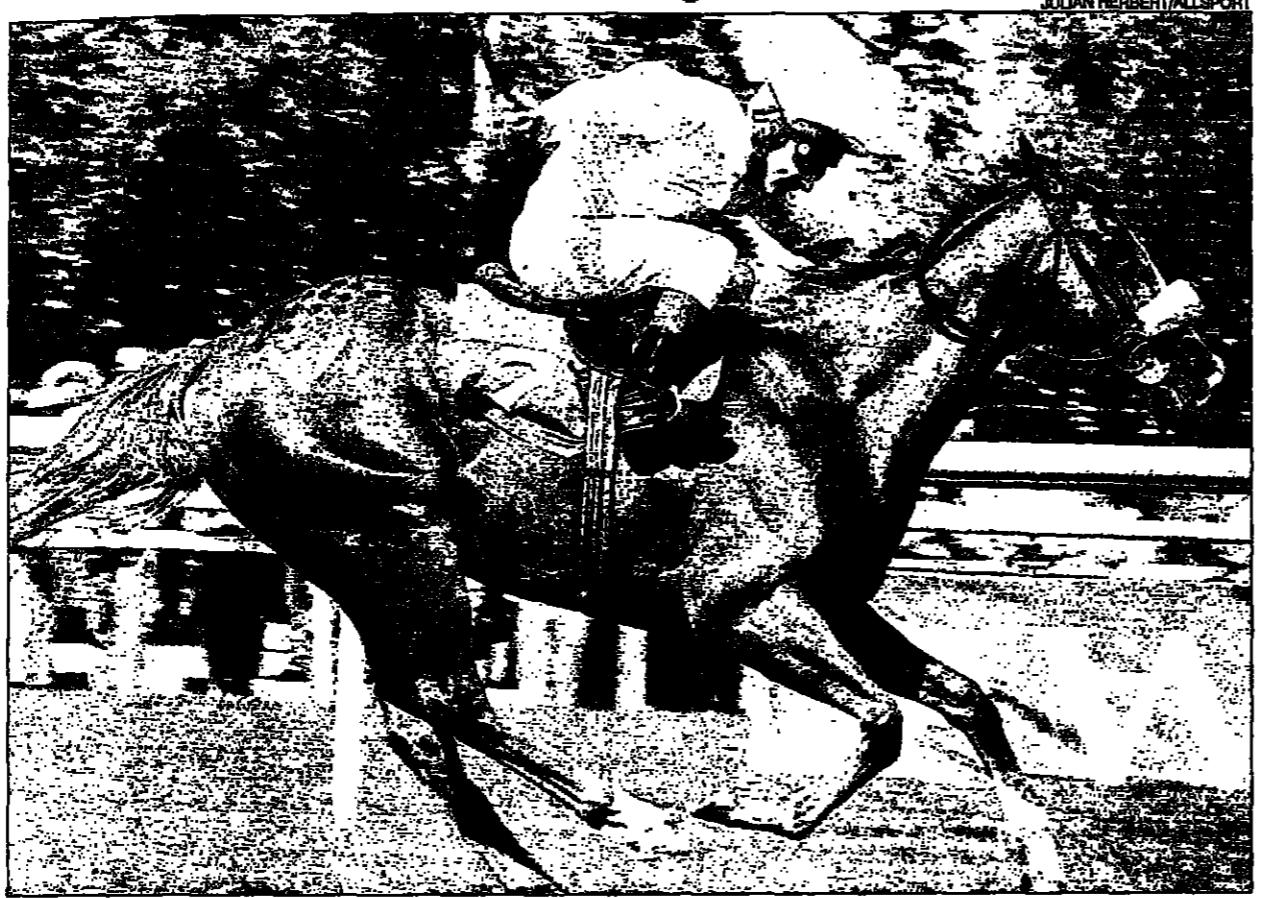
By CHRIS MCGRATH

BARRY HILLS, trainer of the hot favourite for yesterday's Darley July Cup at Newmarket, has been urging the racing world that its interests are intimately entwined with those of the throng assembled in Hyde Park. After Royal Applause fell victim to a 30-1 winner, Compton Place, punters could see the link quite clearly. Betting, it seems, can be the gristiest of blood sports.

Hills had sent two coachloads of his staff to London, and attended the Countryside Rally himself be-

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: GRACEFUL LASS (7-40 Chepstow)
Next best: Kahal (4-10 York)



Sanders drives Compton Place clear to spring a 30-1 surprise in the Darley July Cup at Newmarket yesterday

fore taking a helicopter to the climax of the July meeting. Royal Applause had earned 11-10 favouritism with an authoritative success in the Cork and Orrery Stakes at Royal Ascot; Compton Place, by contrast, had finished twelfth in the King's Stand Stakes at the same meeting. But it was Hills who drew a blank, and James Toller who earned his group one bloodling.

Seb Sanders, likewise enjoying his finest hour to date, broke cover when leading on the far side a furlong and a half out, and the chasing pack was never able to wear him down. It was the biggest shock

Wiltshire — Toller's answer to the millions of the oil sheikhs is the royal patronage of the Duke of Devonshire. The duke was at home, under doctor's orders, but will have felt a lot better once his game Indian Ridge colt had come under those of the starter.

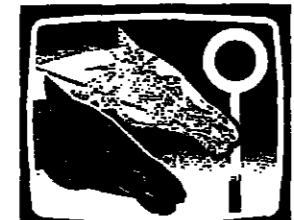
"It wasn't a fluke. I always gave him a good chance of getting in the money," Toller insisted. "He only just got caught in the Gimcrack last year and everyone kept telling us how this year's sprinters were not a good bunch. Royal Applause apart, Ascot was the first time he has ever run disappointingly, and it was also the first time that he ran on soft ground. Hindsight would suggest that to be the explanation, though Seb got him beautifully settled today, and that also made a big difference."

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Rely on That Man Again

NEWMARKET CHANNEL 4



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.10: In a race with limited betting appeal, **That Man Again** deserves a victory after being runner-up behind Squire Corrie at Ayr (now 8lb better off) and **My Best Valentine** at Sandown. Twice As Sharp, a winner over course and distance two months ago, and Squire Corrie are the main dangers.

2.40: Heart Of Gold is progressing well and, after winning at Redcar and Ripon, put up an even better effort at Newcastle when just piped by Kilmia. A case can be made out for Present Arms and Hen Harrier, but the best handicapped horse in the race is **Dream Of Nurmi**. At Newcastle in May he was an excellent second to Memorise, who won a hot

handicap at Newmarket on Wednesday, before finishing a good third in the Wokingham. However, I fancy the chances of **Nightbird**, who showed bags of speed when beating **Elegant Warning** comfortably at Newmarket in May. Despite a poor draw she led until the final furlong in the Jersey Stakes and will be suited by the route to six furlongs.

3.40: Duraid quickened well to win at Newcastle last time, but he may struggle off an 8lb higher mark. Arterewkes, Sandmoo Chambray and the in-form Jo Mell all like to race prominently and given the likely fast pace this race could suit a hold-up horse like **Pride Of Pendle**, for whom Kieren Fallon is an eye-catching booking.

3.10: Bollin Joanne takes a step up in class after running well in big handicaps and she is not out of contention

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too? No

THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 11 1997

SPORT 45

FOOTBALL: WAYWARD ARSENAL STRIKER NETS HEAVY PENALTY

Wright is fined £15,000 as FA lays down the law

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

IAN WRIGHT, the Arsenal striker, was yesterday fined £15,000 by the Football Association, one of the largest financial penalties imposed on a player for misconduct on the pitch. The FA decided on the fine, rather than another lengthy ban, at a hearing at a Hertfordshire hotel.

Wright, 33, was accompanied by his manager, Arsène Wenger, at the FA Commission disciplinary meeting, where he was answering charges relating to incidents during Arsenal matches at home to Blackburn Rovers on April 19 and away to Coventry City two days later.

They centred on remarks made by Wright to the referee on the first occasion and gestures to the crowd on the second.

David Davies, the FA director of public affairs, said: "The Commission made it absolutely clear to Ian Wright that he could expect no sympathy whatsoever if he appeared before them again in similar and proven circumstances. The severest of penalties that would remove him from the game for a very long time would be inevitable."

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Wright had earlier been in buoyant mood in the bright Hertfordshire sunshine as Arsenal's prodigal new squad gathered and spoke optimistically about the coming season. There were Dutchmen, there were Frenchmen, Wright, his skull ruthlessly shaved, gold rings in his ears, said he was delighted to see them all. After all, Wenger had "virtually said to me that 'your place will be there for as long as you're fit enough to claim it, and you can't be fairer than that'".

There seems to be something of a mutual admiration

society already burgeoning between Wright and one of the two new French signings from AS Monaco, Emmanuel Petit. Petit said that Wright's presence was one of the things that attracted him to Highbury. The other, of course, which drew both him and his Monaco team-mate, Gilles Grimandi, is the presence of Wenger himself, who coached them from their early days with the French club.

Petit still seems slightly embarrassed by the confusion over his signing for Arsenal. He arrived at White Hart

Lane to talk to Tottenham Hotspur, asked if they could let him have some English currency and when they obliged he took a taxi to Highbury, where he signed for Tottenham's great rivals. "Je suis dévolé," he said. "I didn't know about the rivalry between them."

Wright said that Petit had already greatly impressed him in training. "What I've seen of Manu, he's a real top-class player, got a lovely left foot. I really look forward to playing with him." It was a sentiment he repeated about Marc Overmars, the £7.5 million newcomer from Holland.

Patrick Vieira, a Frenchman who has already been with Arsenal for nearly a year, said he was delighted that Petit and Grimandi had arrived, not only because they were French but because they were excellent players who would give him support and strength in the side. Language is no problem. Several of the juniors communicate in Italian: the foreign players in the first-team squad almost all speak English.

The two Dutchmen, Dennis Bergkamp and Overmars, talked jointly to the media. Overmars, that swift winger who undid England at Wembley in a World Cup qualifying match, said he had been thinking of leaving Ajax for the past eight months.

Bergkamp was surprisingly outspoken about the transfer to Middlesbrough of Paul Merson this week. "He was one of the players who could decide a game. He's got a lot of skill, got a great right foot. Sometimes decisions are made and I don't know by who."

Bergkamp also looked back philosophically over the two unhappy years he had spent with Internazionale in Milan. "Sometimes it doesn't go your way. You get stronger by that. And that was two fairly good years for me from a learning point of view.

"It's always nice to join a club with a lot of ambition. I feel in Italy they weren't on the same line as I was. I was playing football, attacking football and they weren't one week, they were one week."



Wright left, in happier mood with Pereira, his new Arsenal team-mate, before the fine was announced

Ginola takes Spanish option

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT HAS not been a successful summer for Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman. Juninho and Danny Murphy have already resisted his advances and now David Ginola, the Newcastle United and France winger, has followed suit by declining a move to White Hart Lane.

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away from Tottenham — Juninho — completed his move to Atlético Madrid yesterday, when he signed a five-year contract worth in excess of £7 million.

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GOLF

Delighted Jones is back in full swing

BY A CORRESPONDENT

IT SEEMED entirely appropriate in the second round of the Gulfstream Loch Lomond World Invitational yesterday that a player who views himself as a "streaky" golfer should move into contention just as bands of lightning flashed across foreboding Scottish skies.

Steve Jones, who won the US Open at Oakland Hills last year, found the sanctuary of the locker-room before the delay in play that lasted nearly three hours. A round of 65 gave him a total of 134 – eight under par – and the lead in the clubhouse.

Still on the course, in name if not in person, was Tom Lehman, the Open champion. He was ahead on the leaderboard at ten under par when play was suspended and a buggy took him splashing away from the 12th tee.

Joakim Haeggman, of Sweden, one of the joint first-round leaders, was nine under

Scores 47

par with four holes left to play, while Paul Curry, of England, the other first-round leader, was tied with Jones at eight-under-par with two holes to complete.

For Jones, the upturn in form was as surprising as it was welcome. His game had taken a downward turn since his victory by 11 shots at the Phoenix Open in January. A problem with his swing led to him missing cuts at several tournaments, including three consecutively at the Players' Championship, the Masters and the MCI Heritage Classic.

A chance remark from a coach on the US Tour provided the answer and since his 69 in the third round of the US Open at the Congressional Club three weeks ago, Jones has felt comfortable on the course again.

"It was just a small adjustment, but sometimes that's all it takes," he said. "I had been finding it was affecting my whole game, right down to my putting, as my eye-line, my shoulder turn, everything, had just out of synch."

Jones had five birdies and

an eagle three at the 505-yard 3rd on his way to the upper echelons of the leaderboard. His only problem came at the 415-yard 15th, where his tee-shot kicked right into sand. A bogey five was the result.

He might have been expansive about his swing problems, but Jones remained coy about his present reading material, especially since earlier he had spoken of how a book about Ben Hogan had inspired him before he won the US Open. "I am reading a book just now, but you'll have to wait until I win something before I tell you what it is," he said.

Greg Norman moved into the wing mirrors of the leaders with five birdies and two bogeys in his 68. That made him six under par for the tournament, alongside Stephen Field, of Barnsley, who also had a 68.

One reason Norman is playing the week before an Open for the first time in recent memory is Loch Lomond's close proximity to Troon, enabling him to stay in the same house for two weeks.

Comments about slow play made by Colin Montgomerie on Wednesday prompted Mike Stewart, the tournament director, to visit the media centre yesterday to explain the European Tour's position. Although his visit was arranged for 10.30am, Stewart eventually arrived at 11.15am, prompting ironic calls from him to be fined for missing his tee-time. Stewart said that the guidelines for pace of play were laid down by the Tour Committee, of which Montgomerie is a member, and that tournament officials were merely carrying out those regulations laid down by the players.

Serviano Ballestros was a predictable early departure from the tournament after a second successive round of 79 gave him a 16-over-par aggregate score of 158. Also departing early was Paul Affleck, of Wales, who disqualified himself for teeing off on the last hole after play had been suspended. Affleck was four over par and heading out of the tournament anyway.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wolves hungry for players

BY A CORRESPONDENT

WARRINGTON Wolves, who are too close to the Super League relegation zone for comfort, have failed in their attempt to bolster their squad by luring Allan Bateman, their former centre and a recent rugby union British Lion, back for two months. Warrington face Leeds Rhinos, the second-placed club, at Wigan tonight, before flying to Australia for the second round of matches in the Super League Visa world club championship.

Warrington had more than their share of injury problems this season, which prompted an inquiry to Richmond. Bateman's rugby union club, about the possibility of him helping them out, but the request was denied, and Darryl van de Velde, the Warrington coach, has been forced to try elsewhere in the Super League to recruit players for the trip to Australia.

Paul Hulme and Jon Roper are the latest additions to the Warrington injury list. Hulme



Bateman: no reunion

ROB HUGHES



There can be, at any one time in any sport or any company, only one person who knows that he or she is best. Around Silverstone this week, Michael Schumacher gives off that essence; it is there in the way that he walks, in the manner in which he talks, in the absolute glow of a competitive man who, no matter where you come across him or who is with him at the time, stands apart.

I asked Schumacher an unfair question yesterday: What gives him the most satisfaction, being the outstanding German sportsman of his time or being the driver who is restoring the lapsed fortunes of the scarlet Ferrari?

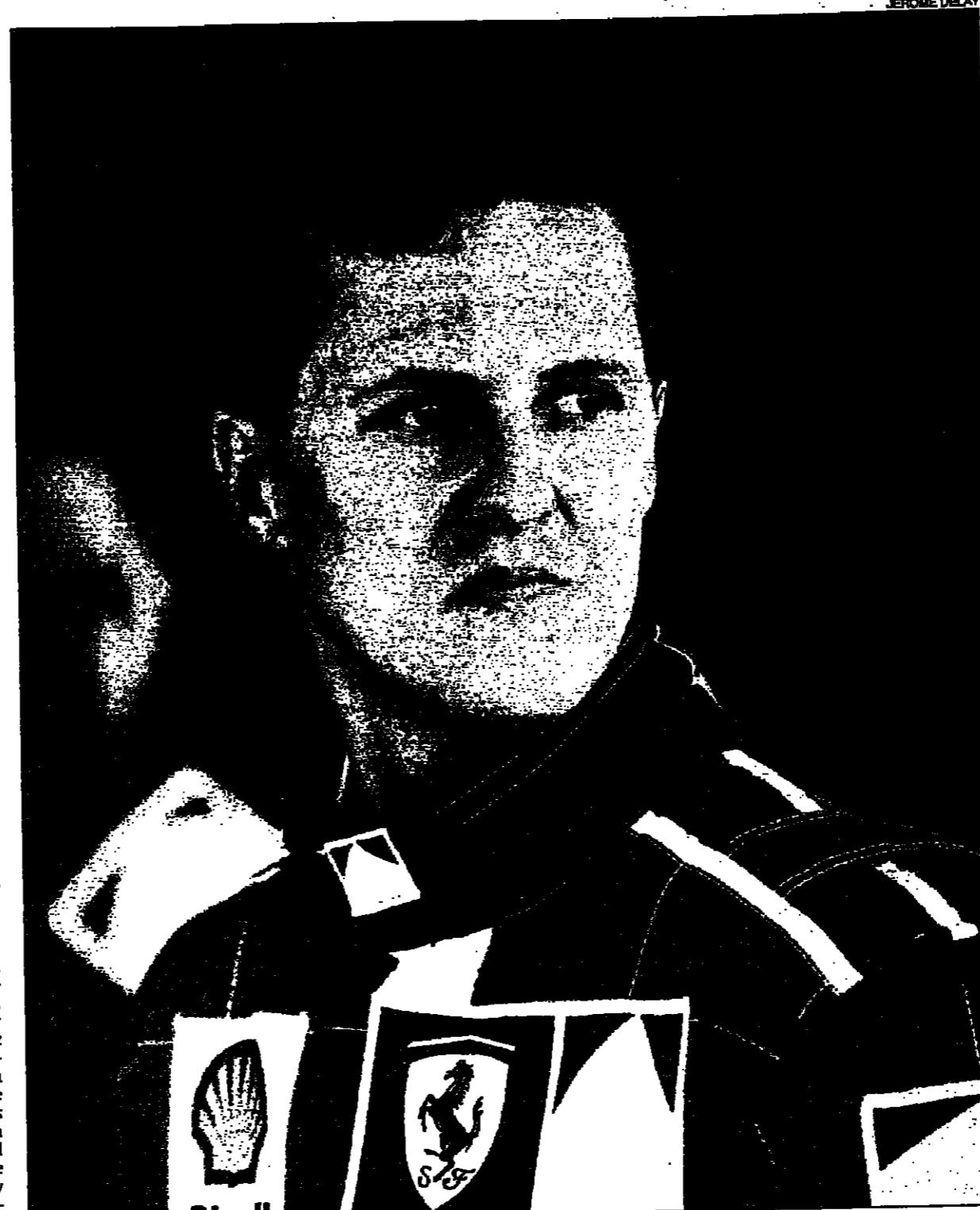
"I never considered the first part of your question," he said, and for an instant the grey-blue eyes looked uncertain. "I couldn't say where I stand on the question of German sportsmen, there are so many different disciplines and imponderables."

Persevering, I put it to him that, with Boris Becker retiring, with Steffi Graf ailing, with no German footballer remotely as famous as Franz Beckenbauer, the responsibility, the focus, the attention of Germans was bound to be on him. Indeed, moments earlier, he had walked into a posse of German media and had patiently, with some humour and some typically forthright Schumacher principles, served them all.

"The second question is more important," he continued. "Winning, and getting the championship back for Ferrari, is my personal ambition. That is it!"

He implied that the Ferrari mission – becoming the first world champion driver in that seat since Jody Scheckter, in 1979 – is paramount, sharing a priority in his life with his baby daughter, Gina Maria.

As well as the media



Schumacher, whatever he is engaged in, gives the reassuring air of a man totally in charge of his future

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RUGBY LEAGUE

ATHLETICS: TRIALS OFFER CHANCE FOR SPRINTERS TO PUSH SPEED TO THE LIMIT IN ATHENS

Mackie beams in on world title pursuit

BY DAVID POWELL

ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Ian Mackie's career ambitions is to be the first white sprinter to beat 100sec for 100 metres. "That would be a big, big thing," Mackie said. "It then goes down in history."

Some things are black and white in sprinting, but others are sometimes less clear, such as who is the world's fastest man? To this observer, there always seemed but one candidate last year – namely Donovan Bailey, the Olympic champion and world record-holder over 100 metres – but others laid out a claim for Michael Johnson.

As Mackie goes to his blocks in Birmingham this evening, on the first day of the three-day British trials for the world championships in Athens next month, he knows that, by booking his ticket to Greece in the 100 metres, he will be volunteering for the first official competition to find the world's fastest human.

Until now, top speed has been measured only over segments of ten metres. Within each ten metres, there would be peaks and troughs

that would be levelled out. Now, using laser technology, outright peak speed can be given. Four lasers are to be inserted into boards behind the 100 metres start and in a diagonally opposite position behind the back straight.

The lasers will be aimed at the lower backs of the athletes to record velocity throughout the races. This will be done only in the 100 metres, for men and



Black: virus

women, and will apply only to the athletes in the middle four lanes. The higher-seeded athletes are awarded the central lanes.

The 200 metres runners have been omitted. Why?

"The only races where you can, without doubt, that this is where they are going to

run the fastest time is the 100 metres and the relay," Nick Davies, an IAAF spokesman, said. "It will not happen in the 200. In the 200, you reach top speed around the bend, then hold it, so it is impossible to be faster in the straight than in 100. When they had this 150-metres challenge and people started to go on about who was the fastest man, that was an interesting query. There was a lot of media attention on that."

There is no assurance that the fastest athlete will be the gold medal-winner. A competitor who records the highest top speed may not be able to sustain his or her top pace and may lose to a rival with greater consistency.

Mackie starts favourite to

progress tonight and win the final tomorrow. Linford Christie's absence, confirmed by his agent yesterday, is conclusive proof that he will not be racing in Athens. The first day of the trials covers heats only, with the greatest interest coming in the men's 400 metres.

The withdrawal of Roger Black was confirmed yesterday, which may present the selectors with a dilemma when they meet on Monday. Black, the Olympic silver medal-winner, has a virus and hopes that a place will be left open to give him time to recover.

However, the 400 metres is Great Britain's most competitive event, and, if three athletes run quickly in the final on Sunday, Black may be omitted. The first two are guaranteed selection and, on recent form, they would be Iwan Thomas and Mark Richardson. Jamie Baileigh, who set a British indoor record last winter, would then have to run well inside 45 seconds to give the selectors safe grounds for dropping Black.

Medve
Brita
to con

ATLANTIC CITY

TENNIS

Medvedev blocks Britain's route to comfort zone

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN KIEV

TIM HENMAN and Greg Rusedski must erase their Wimbledon disappointments when they represent Great Britain in the Davis Cup-be against Ukraine, which starts here today. The outcome is in the balance, with Andrei Medvedev, ranked No 17 in the world, spearheading the home charge on his favourite clay surface.

Henman, the British No 1, is first on court. He is opposed by Andrei Rybalko, little known outside Ukraine but sure to thrive on the noise of a partisan audience. Victory for Henman would place an added burden on Medvedev, who faces Rusedski in the second match.

Medvedev, in fact, holds the key to the tie, which is to be settled over the best of five rubbers. "If one of us beats him, we should win," Rusedski said. Victory is imperative if Britain, at present playing in group one of the Euro-African zone, are to avoid a relegation play-off with Hungary later this year.

After his arduous recent exploits, Henman has been asked to play on each of the three days of the tie. He is to renew his doubles partnership with Neil Broad, with whom he won the silver medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta

last year. Torrential rain here has restricted practice on the match court, but the surface has no terrors for Henman.

"It is more like European clay, more like shale," Henman said. "I don't see any difficulty moving on it. Playing on clay is very different to Wimbledon. It is going to be demanding, but there is definitely a buzz when you play in the Davis Cup. I am looking forward to it."

The British team, under the

guidance of David Lloyd, arrived here after three days of clay-court practice in Frankfurt. Although Henman and Rusedski are not short of match practice, both men, in reflecting their ambitions, remain disappointed at being knocked out of Wimbledon in the quarters-finals.

It was a good Wimbledon last year, but this time the disappointment hit home harder," Henman said. "I didn't do myself justice against Gary Pritchard."

Britain's record in Davis Cups played on clay is particularly poor, a fact that Rusedski recognised when he said: "This is a true test of how we are as a team. If we get by this one, I think we will be in the world group next year." The opportunity to join the elite slipped by when Britain, shorn of Henman and Rusedski through injury, lost to Zimbabwe at Crystal Palace in April.

Medvedev, however, has other ideas. "We have many Olympic and world champions in Ukraine, but tennis is growing very fast," he said. "We haven't had such a big tie here in years. This is a huge match and everyone is very excited. I beat Greg in five sets at the French Open two years ago and Tim has lost some money to me in practice. The teams are quite even, but I think that on clay, with home advantage, it gives us a 51 per cent edge."

ATHLETICS - LINT, Austria: International meeting. Selected: Men's 100m, 1. V. Henneman (USA) 10.06sec; 2. D. McNeill (USA) 10.07.3; 3. M. March (GB) 10.12; 4. 110m hurdles, 1. A. Johnson (USA) 13.22; 2. J. R. Williams (USA) 13.60; 3. 110m, 1. R. McNeil (GB) 10.80m; Women's 100m: 1. G. Davies (USA) 11.06sec; 100m hurdles: 1. M. Morris (USA) 12.82; 2. J. Henneman (USA) 12.40sec; 3. 100m, 1. T. Tornehmen (USA) 54.63; 3. S. Smith (USA) 55.25.

CRICKET - AON RISK TROPHY (one day). West Bromwich, Darnmouth: Warwickshire 210-9 (W 6.5 overs); Minor County 110-7 (W 10.5 overs). Warwickshire won by 107 runs.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP - Second day of final, Chesterfield, Derbyshire 371-9 (dec'd) and 120, Durham 362-8 (dec'd). Durham won by 27 runs.

SHAMWINSKI CUP - 1. S. H. Morris (N. Ireland); 2. S. Morris (N. Ireland); 3. G. H. Morris (N. Ireland); 4. J. Morris (N. Ireland); 5. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 6. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 7. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 8. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 9. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 10. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 11. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 12. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 13. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 14. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 15. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 16. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 17. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 18. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 19. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 20. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 21. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 22. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 23. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 24. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 25. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 26. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 27. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 28. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 29. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 30. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 31. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 32. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 33. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 34. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 35. G. Morris (N. Ireland); 36. 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London hotel. *The Times* looks at the issues, the clubs and the personalities involved in a bitter conflict

So, how did things ever come to this?

David Hands looks at the background and complex causes of tonight's events

THERE have been times during the past two years when a surrealism has entered English rugby entirely out of character with the game. The sport's wheelers and dealers have met in furthest corners, making and breaking alliances, leaking information for the advancement of their cause, recreating the Cold War in a way reminiscent of the best John le Carré novel.

The media entered into the chase with enthusiasm until most of them realised that little was being accomplished and that, in fact, the game itself — the game, that is, as played upon acres of grass rather than in corridors of power — was getting along pretty well. The media indeed, became almost as confused as the rugby-loving public as tales of malice and spite, confrontation and eyeballing argument became common currency.

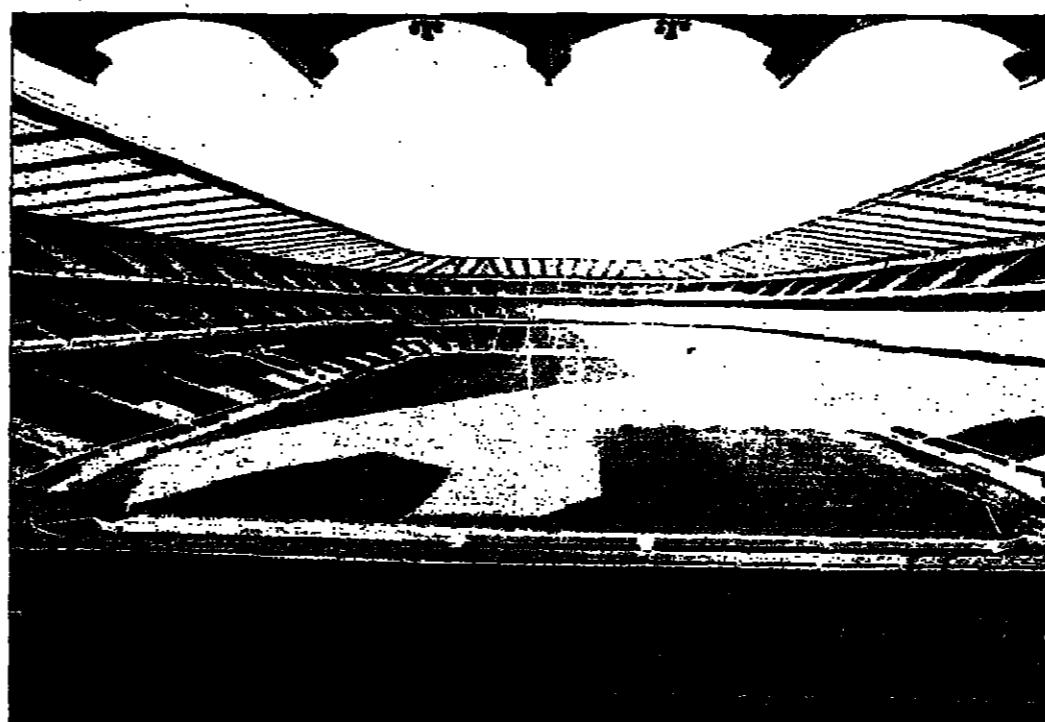
It is a far cry from the enamelled splendours of the Paris hotel where members of the International Rugby Football Board agreed in August 1995 to change forever the

nature of the game, to the more modest surrounds of hotels in provincial England where members of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) earlier this year sought to discover the concerns that motivated the smallest of its members.

For the vast majority, those concerns remain: Can the union help with advice on insurance? What about the influx of mini-rugby players and the need for equipment? Any chance of a rates rebate? Merely because the high and mighty have declared that what was once so is now no longer, the game below goes on.

Yet, the fact remained that England were ill-prepared for the decision taken in Paris to scrap the amateur regulations. Unlike their southern counterparts, the preparations, philosophical and practical, were not in place and, because England is by far the biggest of the home unions, her problems were always going to be emphasised.

First there was a moratorium, then a commission. There was a commission anyway, that under



Twickenham, the home of English rugby union and scene of much intrigue and bitter wrangling

the auspices of Bill Bishop, the 1995-96 RFU president and a man who has given much of his life to rugby for the pure love of the game. Anyone with an ounce of feeling would have recognised, and sympathised with, the agonies through which Bishop went at the first of the RFU's extraordinary general meetings of January 1996.

"Tell me what you want," he implored an increasingly hostile meeting for which the RFU had prepared poorly. It cost them their candidate for the post of executive committee chairman and lost them a huge amount of respect. In many ways, they have been making up lost ground ever since.

Meanwhile, we have been plagued with such meetings, with reports most of which bear Sir Patrick Lowry's name, with acronyms — as well as acrimonious — gatherings and the rise and rise of powerful and wealthy individuals whose knowledge of the game is sometimes limited but who know what they seek from a business deal.

The English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) invaded the nation's consciousness (soon to be unconscious) thoughts and the names of Sir John Hall, Donald Kerr, Peter Wheeler, Cliff Brittle and Tony Haller became *de rigueur*, to be dropped from the lips

of anyone who knew anything of the state of English rugby.

Hall and Kerr wrangled with Brittle, administrators walked into meetings or walked out of them, midnight oil was burned in gallons, agreements were on and then off. England were out of the five nations, then they were back in and whose was the credit anyway? Publicity companies and lawyers had the power of veto, over its introduction, but that pay-per-view wasn't an issue and is not part of the long-term contract signed this week. The RFU maintains pay-per-view is excluded unless it agrees and one source said: "We aren't going to agree." Cries say it was only the pressure exerted by the Reform Group and others that highlighted a possibility of a sellout and forced the RFU to back down.

While holding nothing against Sky, opponents say the television deal was struck without proper consultation and that a cover-up has ensued. The RFU insists the Sky money could not have been bettered and the announcement of ITV as a terrestrial partner is good for the game.

The points at issue

TELEVISION

FINANCE

The bone of contention has been the television deal struck with BSkyB which detractors say was a dash for cash entered into in undue haste to offset the possibility of a breakaway by senior clubs. One key issue was whether pay-per-view was part of the original heads of agreement signed last year. Was last year's meeting misled?

The RFU says not, as it always had the power of veto, over its introduction, but that pay-per-view wasn't an issue and is not part of the long-term contract signed this week. The RFU maintains pay-per-view is excluded unless it agrees and one source said: "We aren't going to agree." Cries say it was only the pressure exerted by the Reform Group and others that highlighted a possibility of a sellout and forced the RFU to back down.

Opponents say it is because the companies did not get the requisite exposure on satellite television. The ITV deal should help to attract new sponsors — such as Allied Dunbar who have replaced Courage — with internationals shown early on a Saturday evening.

Senior clubs share about £10 million a year: £4.5 million from the Sky contract, £4 million from Allied Dunbar and other sponsors, and a £1.5 million grant from Twickenham. According to their detractors, the top clubs wanted even more, at the expense of their smaller brethren.

Next season clubs below the Premiership will each receive amounts ranging from £90,000 to £500. Junior clubs are grateful that a transfer fee/compensation scheme, however modest, has been agreed on a sliding scale.

STRUCTURE

Is "one club, one vote" still realistic? However, all agree that cannot and will not change. The RFU would like the committee to pick the chairman of the management board and not rely on the full membership.

It is an absurd situation. We are the only country in world rugby that does it this way," a Twickenham source said. "It is a throwback to a bygone era."

The reform group says that one club, one vote has been the clubs' only protection in the last two years. It insists that it is grass-roots clubs that produce and develop players. The RFU supports a strong club base but accepts there is a place for county/representative rugby, though without top players. Brittle sees strong divisional rugby as a vital bridge between club and international level.

THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

THE Rugby Football Union will be run next season on a daily basis by a management board. This replaces the former executive committee, which Cliff Brittle, the incumbent chairman, has described as a cabal. It comprises 12 members, some professional, some unpaid. They include the RFU president, the senior vice-president, the director of rugby and the chief executive (formerly the secretary). Also on the board are a director of finance, director of support services, representatives of the English Rugby Part-

nership and the International Rugby Football Board, and three members of the RFU council.

This council replaces the full committee, the "old farts" to whom Will Carling notoriously referred. The council has overall responsibility for RFU affairs and comprises 58 elected members plus five full-time professional appointees who also sit on the management board. Most of the elected members come from the constituent bodies (the counties, schools, universities, armed forces, etc.). Others include past

RFU presidents, leading club representatives and International Board members.

There are 1,571 full members of the RFU plus a further 502 clubs affiliated only to the constituent bodies. Some 132 university clubs and 133 services clubs can also vote tonight, although last year fewer than half of those eligible to vote did so.

On January 14, 1996, 647 votes were cast for Cliff Brittle and 332 for John Jeavons-Fellows, then RFU candidate for the post now being contested by Bob Rogers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE annual general meeting of the Rugby Football Union will be held in the ballroom of the London Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, tonight from 8pm.

The election of officers to the union for the 1997-98 season takes place halfway through the 11-item agenda. Many of these posts are uncontested, with the obvious exception of the chairman of the management committee, the ballot for which will be scrutinised by the Electoral Reform Society. Many of the votes will be cast by proxy, since

some club representatives are unable to attend in person.

The result is supposed to be kept secret until the end of the evening — when that will be is anybody's guess — after all items on the agenda have been debated. Whether this will be possible, and what the ramifications of an early leaked result would be, remains to be seen.

Additional reporting and research by Nicolas Andrews, Mark Souster and Marcus Williams

THE MOOD OF THE COUNTRY

Q1 Will you be at the agm?

Q2 How was your club's policy formulated?

Q3 How will your club vote?

Q4 What are the key issues in the election?

Q5 What will you do if the other side wins?

WEST HARTLEPOOL

Premiership Two

Yes.

Yes. The board of management made the decision.

Bob Rogers.

THE NORTH

We are concerned that Cliff Brittle has decided what level of democracy he feels is valid. He has lost every vote but still goes on about democracy. He is obstructive about the way forward with no clear vision for the future. He just wants power and justifies everything by saying that the clubs put him in. We have no time for him at all.

We have in place a number of agreements and obstacles would be put in the way of what we are trying to achieve if Brittle is put back in. He will obstruct where he can.

WHARFEDALE

National League One

Yes.

Yes. We had a committee meeting. The players have a representative and their voice was heard.

We will vote in the best interests of the club.

THE MIDLANDS

We are a bridging club between the grassroots of the game and the Premiership, and yet we see ourselves as a grassroots club and it is all about representation and accountability. Our geography has a lot to do with it. We see ourselves as a community facility.

We will have to go through the normal channels.

MEDICAL

Durham and Northumberland

No, we shall not be going. London is a long way. We have put our proxy vote in.

Yes. We discussed it at committee level and listened to the players.

We voted for Cliff Brittle last time and see no reason to change our mind.

The RFU has not managed the transition to professionalism very well and they have not listened to what clubs have said. There are probably faults on both sides and Cliff Brittle is not without blame. We are sure Bob Rogers is a nice fellow and competent man but we are going for Brittle.

Whichever way the vote goes, we would accept it. If Cliff Brittle wins again, we would hope the RFU sees that they have got to abide by a democratic vote. People just wish it was all over and we could get on with playing the game that we love.

NORTHAMPTON

Premiership One

Yes.

Yes. At a board meeting. The players were not involved.

Bob Rogers. We cannot imagine a professional club voting any other way.

THE NATION

We believe professional rugby is working very well, as is the ERP. We have seen the Lions do well in their first professional tour and any changes to that and the top end of the game and any management committee with Cliff Brittle in charge will only rock the boat.

We have gone through the confrontational era but fractiousness within the RFU will continue. We have a situation of the chairman (Brittle) having been voted in by the junior clubs. We cannot see any profit for the game in voting for Brittle. Senior clubs do not see divisional football as part of the agenda at all.

BIRMINGHAM/SOLIHULL

National League Two North

Yes.

Yes. At a committee meeting.

For the person the club feels will unify the game. We might not have chosen the right person but he is the one to bring all this to an end.

THE MIDNORTH

We are concerned about the amount of material coming from both parties. They must have spent a fortune, and the material was fairly similar. They both purport to represent honesty, integrity and whatever. We found it difficult, on the basis of the material, to make a decision so it is based more on a gut feeling. The feeling was that the little clubs would get a better hearing from Cliff Brittle. For clubs at our level, the influence of the RFU is fairly remote. We seen be fairly low on the list of priorities. At least Cliff Brittle has some supporters who are nationally known.

The club does not feel that strongly about it. While it is all important in the longer term, there are far more important things on our agenda, like our 75th anniversary, which is coming up, what has happened to the lady members and where we are going to get our training balls from.

OLD NORTHAMPTONIANS

Midlands East One

Either in person or by proxy.

Yes. We had a committee meeting on Tuesday night and the players' representatives were there. There was some debate, but the final decision was unanimous.

For Cliff Brittle and The Reform Group.

THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST

We feel there is peace in our time and that should continue as we have had enough of slingin mud at each other. Peace has been made between the RFU and the senior clubs. There is still unrest among the junior clubs but, if there is more money in the game, everybody will benefit. It is a bit like the Kenny Packer situation cricketers now earn a decent living because of it. Junior clubs can only benefit from the additional money in the game. There is a tendency to criticise the governing body but everyone only stands to gain a lot. Cliff is a retrograde step because it is time for peace.

There is a real worry that there will be a split in the game. We would need to wait to see what Brittle has to say before deciding.

HENLEY

National League Two South

Yes.

Yes. It was the chairmen's decision. The players were not terribly interested.

Bob Rogers.

THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST

The key issue is to keep the RFU together as a rugby union. Our fears are that if Cliff Brittle gets re-elected, the divisions will go on and on, and in the end, the senior clubs could well be tempted to reassess their relationship with the RFU. There is a lot of sympathy for what Brittle has said; but, as an individual, he is so obnoxious. He wants to control everything. There is a legacy of John Burgess. It is felt in Lancashire that he was badly treated by the RFU and it has not been forgotten. Fran Cotton has picked up his banner.

We would continue to work to shape and change things. There would be no use in walking away. We would try to get into the system to engineer change to stop this running sore.

THANET WANDERERS

London Two South

No. We are sending in a proxy from Kent.

Yes. We went to the Kent AGM, where one representative spoke for Cliff Brittle and another for Bob Rogers, but everyone who stood up from the floor spoke for Cliff and he carried the day. Then we had an AGM at the club last Thursday and we discussed it. We are all happy with that. The players were there.

Cliff Brittle.

THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST

We just want everyone to settle down and hope that peace and common sense prevail.

If it is a democratic process, we have to accept that. No doubt we would want to make our point of view known through the ERP. That is the only avenue we would have now.

PLYMOUTH ALBION

National League Two South

Yes.

Yes. At committee meeting on Tuesday with the chairman.

Cliff Brittle.

THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST

We need to be better informed about what is going on. We are being treated like mushrooms kept in the dark and being fed nibbles by the RFU. We are not satisfied with what is going on. Not all of us are happy with the distribution of money from BSkyB. We feel it was a cash job and is no good in terms of the public being able to watch rugby on television.

We have not really thought that far

ROWING

Four face final test as rivals gather

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT
IN LUCERNE

THE British coxless four of Steve Redgrave, Matthew PinSENT, Tim Foster and James Cracknell had a quiet Henley, where they won a final that was more an exhibition than an exercise. They face a more testing time this weekend in the World Cup finals, which start today here in Switzerland.

The four have a commanding World Cup lead of seven points in their class, having won in Munich and Paris, but, with the world championships approaching, competition is stiffening. Only seven coxless fours contested Paris, where Britain won by 0.7sec. from France. Fifteen crews are in Lucerne, including, for the first time this year, the Italians, with three members of their 1994 and 1995 world championship-winning crew.

Britain's other World Cup leaders, the coxless pair of Rob Thaler and Ben Hunt-Davis, who also won at Henley, have a less commanding position. They have just a one-point lead over Croatia and two points over France and Lithuania, who beat Britain by a whisker in Paris.

The British eight are lying third behind Germany and Romania. Ominously, the Australians, who missed Munich but won in Paris and at Henley, are fourth. The good news is that Britain finished closer to Australia at Henley than Germany.

Guin Batten, Britain's woman sculler, who is lying sixth in the World Cup rankings, will want to prove that her premature easing up in the Henley final against Maria Brändin, of Sweden, was an aberration.

Britain has 13 crews in the 11 World Cup events: 12 in non-World Cup events and is second in the overall rankings, behind Germany.

EQUESTRIANISM

Goosen eases to victory with plenty in reserve

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

GUY GOOSSEN left his more experienced rivals trailing when he and Carat won the Royal International Chase, the opening event at the Royal International Horse Show, at Hickstead yesterday.

Carat, an 11-year-old gelding on which Goosen, 23, won the King's Cup for Great Britain in Madrid at the end of May, completed the 12-fence course in 55.92sec to relegate Heinrich, Herman Engemann, of Germany, on Edgar, to second place by 0.1sec. "He's normally my third-string horse," Goosen said, "but he's been upgraded for this show."

Sagrat, his top horse, on which he came within a whisker of beating the world high jump record of 7ft 11in in Madrid — and collecting a £150,000 prize — has succumbed to a virus. Elektrik, his second-string, was sidelined through injury for much of last year and is competing only in the smaller classes.

Firtrally, Carat, who Goosen will ride in the King George V Gold Cup on Sunday, was bought four years ago from Paul Schockemohle, the German businessman whose partnership with Douglas Bunn, the owner of Hickstead, has secured the immediate future of the venue.

Engemann's performance underlined the class of his mount, a Hanoverian bred in Sweden, who won the world championships for young horses in Lanaken last year. Now eight, the horse has moved effortlessly into grand prix competition. He was seventh in the Madrid grand prix in May and a week later collected only four faults over the two rounds of the Nations' Cup in Lisbon.

Later, Peter Charles, of Ireland, the European champion, produced a blisteringly fast round on T'Aime to win The Royal International July Stakes by nearly 7sec. Michel Hecart, of France, who thought that he had produced a fast round on Elio, his Dutch-bred gelding, until he watched Charles, finished second. James Fisher, of Britain, who had held the early lead on Pinon Voici — as he had in the

earlier class on Tip Toe — dropped to third place.

Between the international classes, Leanna Riley, 11, gave a gloriously uninhibited display of jumping to win the Maxi Cosi Winter 128cm championship on Bally Red Wharf. Going last in the four-pony jump-off, Riley executed such sharp turns on her diminutive pony that she looked in danger of keeling over. Roared on, she finished an astonishing 2.32sec ahead of Charlotte Champion, on Metric.

Earlier, Schockemohle, a former European show-jumping champion, confirmed that "friendly negotiations" were in place to bring the British Nations' Cup event back to Hickstead. The event was transferred to Windsor this year — at the last minute — when Burnt was forced to cancel his usual May meeting after the withdrawal of Silk Cut, his main sponsor, and his failure to secure a £400,000 liferaft from the Sports Council. Schockemohle, whose event

is contributing a substantial amount to the running costs of the Royal International and the Derby meeting next month, is determined that, in future, Hickstead's fortunes will not depend on one man's sponsor.

Speaking at the show yesterday, he said: "We want to change the whole concept and bring in more sponsors. Relying on one main sponsor is very dangerous because they can change their mind so suddenly."

PRESIDENTIAL

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW
ROYAL INTERNATIONAL CHASE: 1. Carat (G Goosen, GB) 0 in 55.92; 2. Heinrich (H Engemann, Ger) 0 in 56.03; 3. Sagrat (Vilmos Ashley (M Whitsaker, GB) 0 in 56.49.

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL JULY STAKES: 1. T'Aime (P Charles, Ir) 0 in 74.2; 2. Elio (M Hecart, Fr) 0 in 64.71; 3. Pinon Voici (J Fisher, GB) 0 in 46.68.

BLOODSTOCK AND GENERAL RIDDEN HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Scott Chisholm's Red Hand (G Landau), Represented by Integrated Packaging Ltd's Fourpenny Rock (D Tallow).

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 47

HILO

(b) *Hilo grass*, a large and coarse grass. *Paspalum conjugatum*. The Hawaiian word.

The well known and generally despised *Hilo* grass occurs in moist, heavy soils in the lower zone."

KANGANY

(b) An overseer or headman of a gang of local labourers in Sri Lanka, southern India and Malaysia. From the Tamil *kan* an eye + *ayu* to see. "Several Tamil headmen — Kanganyes — are sent to India with recruiting agents. Each Kangany will go to his own village in South India."

NAGA

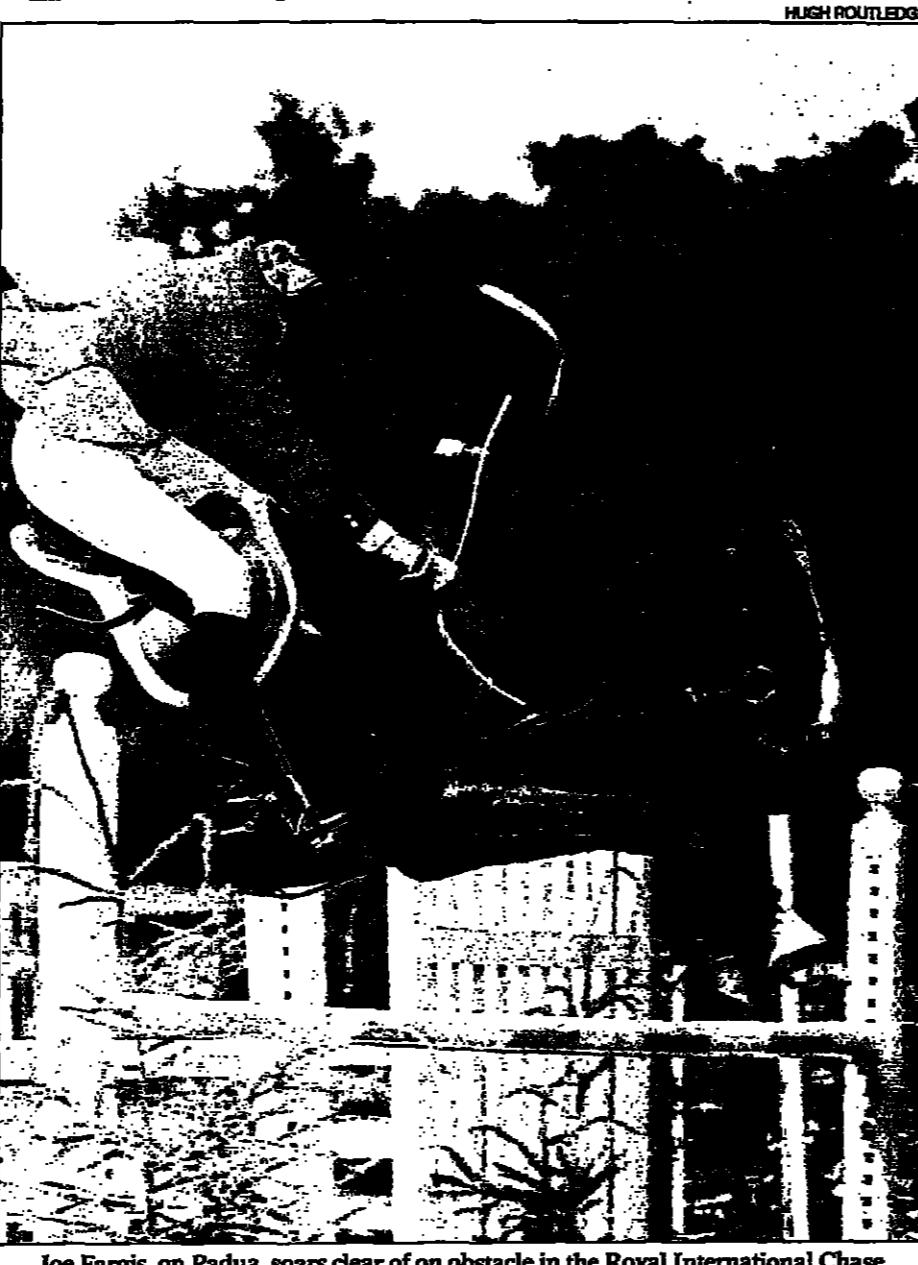
(a) A naked mendicant belonging to any Hindu sect, specifically such an ascetic belonging to a Dadya Panthi sect. These members are allowed to carry arms and serve as mercenaries. From the Sanskrit word for "naked". "A learned Brahmin, when I told him of my plan to work among the Nagas, thought that I had wanted to study people whose nakedness had religious grounds."

LIGAND

(a) Each of the atoms or groups of atoms attached to the central (usually the metal) atom of a co-ordination complex. From *ligare*, the relative accumulation factors for metals in minute organisms are related, in general, to the stability of the metal ions with ligands.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rg1 Qxd4 2 Rxe5+ Kg7 3 exd4 and wins.



Joe Fargis, on Padua, soars clear of an obstacle in the Royal International Chase

"A masterpiece"

"Nothing short of brilliant"

"A stunning achievement"



DUNGEON KEEPER: The most eagerly anticipated computer game of the decade

PC
CD

DUNGEON KEEPER

TELEVISION CHOICE

Big names and fast food

Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook

BBC1, 7.00pm

After more than 300 editions the frenetic cookery show opens its kitchen to some of the small screen's better-known faces. Members of the public have long and gallantly made fools of themselves trying to cook against the clock, so it seems only right that soap stars and weathermen should take their turn. The tasty treats of Michael Fish and Ian McCaskill must await another programme, as must the culinary creations of June Whitfield, Roy Bremner, Lorraine Kelly, Nigel Havers and the Malletts from *Coronation Street*. Another soap opera, *EastEnders*, provides today's celebrity pair: Wendy Richard and her screen son, Todd Carty. Fern Britton's challenge for them is to prepare a meal in 20 minutes with £5 worth of ingredients. Two real chefs, Tony Tobin and the genial Ainsley Harriott, are on hand to help.

United Kingdom! Keeping the Dream Alive

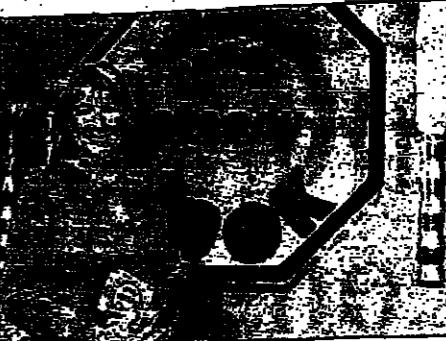
BBC2, 7.45pm

David Quartermain is training on Lake Windermere for a third and final attempt to swim the English Channel. But this is a film more about the man and his method than the feat itself. He is not from a family of weak men, including his own father, and is determined to be a strong one. He was very close to his mother, particularly when she was dying of cancer, and expects to see her (at least in spirit) as he wades ashore on a French beach. Exhaustion and hypothermia scuppered his previous attempts and the statistics are not encouraging. More than a third of those who attempted the crossing since 1875 have failed to make it. In the climax to a well-observed film he finally strikes out for France. As he tries to battle through pain and fatigue, darkness closes in and his coach shouts at him to stay near the boat or risk being three times unlucky.

United Kingdom! Take That, Your Majesty

BBC2, 8.15pm

Having begun by featuring one of the Royal Family's most loyal subjects, this admirable series of national snapshots concludes by presenting an opposite view. It is a fair bet that Colin Edwards, the superpatriotic royal watcher, would have little



Fern Britton challenges (BBC1, 7.00pm)

time for Iwan Standley of the Welsh Language Society. With four fellow nationalists, Standley threw himself in front of the Queen's car during her visit to Aberystwyth, declaring that the Queen (ungraciously referred to as "the old dear") was a personification of the evil British State which was trying to suppress Welsh culture. Standley and his friends were arrested for breach of the peace and taken to court. If anything the move backfired by giving them extra publicity for the cause. They were not slow to take advantage.

Frasier

Channel 4, 10.00pm

American sitcom night on Channel 4, which last week saw the new series of *Friends* is further enhanced by the return of the dysfunctional housemates from Seattle. *Frasier* is one of the best-structured of the American comedy shows and if it neither aims high nor goes deep, it mixes its well-chosen ingredients to consistently strong effect. Tonight's episode exemplifies this with a skillfully-worked plot about mistaken identity. At its heart is an attempt by Daphne (Jane Leeves) to repel an old flame by pretending she is married to Niles (David Hyde Pierce). *Frasier* (Kelsey Grammer) and Martin (John Goodman) join in the deception. The joke will have a special resonance for regular viewers who have long followed Niles's unrequited crush on Daphne.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Goodness Gracious Me

Radio 4, 11.00pm

There are some programmes one looks forward to more than others and the arrival of a tape of the show that won Best Comedy at this year's Sony Awards cheered up a dull morning. I would have been even more cheered had the tape not been blank, unless of course this is some particularly subtle joke by the producer Alan Gubria. But I am sufficiently content to recommend this, the first Asian sketch show to win a Sony, especially as some of the staples from the first series including The Bhagwans are returning. There is also a rare and exotic Hollywood guest, columnist Madhuri Melia Lajpat. Those who think an Asian show is just for Asians are missing something: comedy this good is inclusive.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 12.00 Nicki Campbell 1.00 May Anne Hobbs 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Pete Tong: Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Pop Show with Tim Westwood 3.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.00 Alex Lester 8.15 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Dabber Thrower 5.30 Ed Stewart 5.55 John Dunn 7.00 Gitta Stig Gitta Dabber 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. From the Hippodrome in Gaiety, Green, with the BBC Concert Orchestra under Marin Londey. With Marilyn Hill Smith, Bonaventure Botte and Wimberley Barbers 5.15 Boni Free, Read by Wrights McKenna 5.30 Listen to the Band 6.00 Sheridan Morley

RADIO 3

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.20 Friday Sport. Includes the Stones Super League game between St Helens and Halifax. Blue Sox 10.00 Paper Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00pm All At Night

RADIO 4

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.20 Friday Sport. Includes the Stones Super League game between St Helens and Halifax. Blue Sox 10.00 Paper Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00pm All At Night

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.20 Friday Sport. Includes the Stones Super League game between St Helens and Halifax. Blue Sox 10.00 Paper Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00pm All At Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashby and Sandy Web 7.00 Paul Price 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drive, with Peter Deasy 7.00 Max Dee's Sportscast 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 6

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes *Poulenc (Mass in G)*; *Beethoven (Symphony No 2 in D)*; *Debussy (La Mer)*; *Stravinsky (Rite of Spring)*; *Shostakovich (Piano Quintet)*

9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes *Berlioz (Overture Le corsaire)*; *Satie (Gymnopedies Nos 4-6)*; *Hesse (Motet: Chor)*; *Anger (Lastant)*; *Tchaikovsky (Overture Romeo and Juliet)*; *Prokofiev (Cyril and Methodius)*

10.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes *Wagner (A Faust Overture)*; *Brahms (Piano Sonata in C sharp minor, Op 27, No 2, Mondschein)*; *Mystical (Wind Octet No 3 in E flat)*; *Prokofiev (Romeo and Juliet)*; *Reinhardt (Elegie Trio in D minor, Op 9)*

12.00 Composers of the Week: Spanish Music

1.00pm News Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Octagon, Buxton. Fine Arts Brass Ensemble. *Berio (Canti; Purcell, arr. Roberts (Trumpet Tunes and Airs); Purcell, arr. Hollins (Arioso); Purcell, arr. Adam's (Sinf.); Garthwaite, arr. Roberts (State: Porgy and Bess))*

2.00 Private Passions. The actor David Cale reveals his favourite pieces of music to Michael Balfrey.

3.00 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (1)

4.00 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (2)

5.00 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (3)

5.15 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (4)

5.30 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (5)

5.45 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (6)

6.00 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (7)

6.15 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (8)

6.30 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (9)

6.45 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (10)

6.55 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (11)

7.00 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (12)

7.15 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (13)

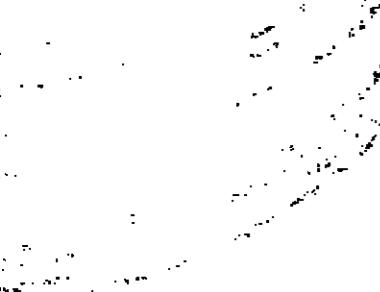
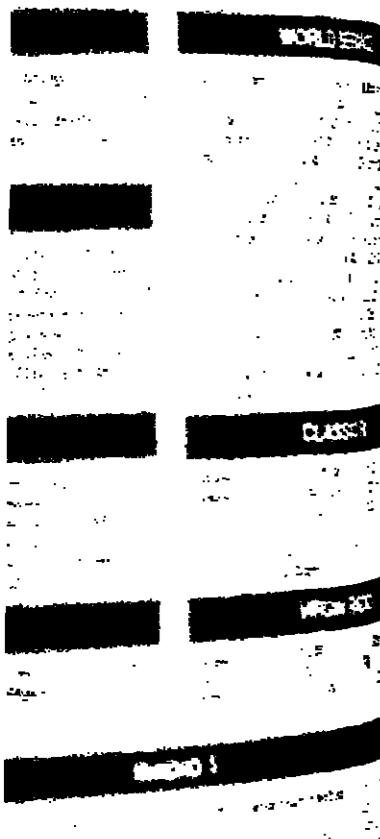
7.30 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (14)

7.45 Morning News. *Classic Serials* (15)

7.55 Morning News. *Classic Serials*



's and fast food



Let's all be thankful for the boys in blue

As the pall of summer settles ever more heavily over the television schedules (believe me, I've read next week's *Radio Times* the thrice-weekly *The Bill* (ITV) becomes ever more welcome. Slightly biased I may be (ibid. passim), but there's no arguing with the fact that round at Sun Hill they reliably pack more original drama into 24 minutes than BBC1 will get into the entirety of at least one particularly awful looking night next week. No arguing, that is, except with fans of classic clips, from compilations of highlights, of repeats of the funny bits from comedy shows that the BBC can't afford to make any more.

But back to Sun Hill, where last night's episode was particularly special because Linda Dean, the actress formerly known as Mrs Grant Mitchell of *Albert Square*, was in it. And guess what? She was, playing an arsonist.

Like a moth to the flame, Dean

appears drawn deliberately to set fires. Indeed, how she ever got through *The Hello Girls* without burning down Derby telephone exchange, I shall never know. But here she was, back on more familiar and certainly more incendiary territory, playing Amanda Ronson (an unfortunate surname for an arsonist, don't you think?) a hairdresser whose salon was mysteriously burnt down. And not a Mitchell brother in sight.

Meadows (Simon Rouse) was convinced she had done it, largely because a few years earlier he had failed to get her convicted of helping to set light to her boyfriend's factory. This had to be another instance, job... except for the motive-wrecking revelation that the salon was not insured. If I tell you that the real motive involved a woman called Peggy and an extramarital affair, you'll probably laugh — but it's true.

As the credits rolled, I faced the sort of depressing choice that tells you that summer schedules have arrived: *Airport* (BBC1) or *Undercover Castions* (ITV)? And would anybody be able to tell if they pressed the wrong button?

Happily, the quality of the script

and the acting ensured that we survived such spooky coincidences. Dean, looking browner and blonder than she ever had in Walford, was on good form and was particularly well supported by Polly Hemingway, who played Peggy, her rival in love and inherited wealth, and by Niall Foley, her easily duped boyfriend.

We left Sun Hill with DS Beech (Billy Murray, another *EastEnders* vet) still casting admiring glances in her direction. A woman, he thought, worth getting your fingers burn for. "You wouldn't be the first," warned Meadows. Too right.

As the credits rolled, I faced the sort of depressing choice that tells you that summer schedules have arrived: *Airport* (BBC1) or *Undercover Castions* (ITV)? And would anybody be able to tell if they pressed the wrong button?

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

At least, with *Airport*, somebody finally seemed to have agreed with me that watching it on television is even more boring than going to Heathrow itself. This episode had all the exciting bits that have been so conspicuous by their absence to date. We had a small plane crash (not any dead, or even injured), two medical emergencies (including a baggage handler with mildly-crushed feet) and a glimpse

of Diana, Princess of Wales. For a moment I thought we were even having a fleeting glimpse of real life, until I discovered that the cross-looking passengers were not being turned away from the British Airways desk, but from Virgin Atlantic's. Nothing to do with strikes, but some sort of diplomatic problem that meant their plane was still in Washington DC.

But best of all were Steve and Dennis, respectively resident reporter and photographer at Heathrow, who were clearly out to confirm everybody's worst suspicions of the journalistic profession. This hard-bitten pair already had the story of the crash, plus accompanying pictures, from a bearded, Egyptian businessman. But what they really wanted was an English family or an attractive blonde. "Sex-sells," observed the unrepentant Dennis, who had just spotted exactly what he wanted. "She's pretty, she's blonde — if that

lady was a passenger she'd be perfect." The slightly worrying thing is that if you examine the front pages of even the more serious papers — he's right.

In *Undercover Customs*, Trevor McDonald was going where his fellow newreaders, Michael Buerk and Martin Lewis, have already gone — into the easy money world of presenting surveillance video clips and dramatised reconstructions. In time-honoured fashion he assured us that the customs officers we would see and the members of the Cali cocaine cartel of Colombia were all played by actors. Either he was lying or the actors were having a very bad day.

Then there were the names to sort out. To protect the identity of the undercover customs officer, Trevor proudly told us, he had been called Peter Hesketh. Fair enough, I suppose. But there was more. "To protect his informant,

we have called him... Steve." Steve? That left the Colombians. There was Gerardo Something-else, "known as Mr G" and Francisco Somethingelse. "You can call me Frank." Well, why not? The introductions set the tone of what followed.

Finally, Clive Anderson returned from his ill-fated mission to Mars and BBC2 to present yet another new series of the still hugely enjoyable *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* (Channel 4). With gifted North Americans now dominating the team, Rory Bremner bravely pitched up to play the token Brit. He was thoroughly outclassed when it came to improvisation but got his own back with impersonation, which a surprising number of games tactfully seemed to require. The world's worst presenter of an educational sex video? Murray Walker. John Major, Geoffrey Boycott... why no Clive Anderson?

BBC1

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (34614)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (61701)
9.00 *Breakfast News Extra* (T) (5326988)
9.20 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (1947904)
9.50 *Kilroy* (5612072)
10.30 *Who'll Do the Pudding?* Phil Vickery prepares honey-glazed duck. Paul Rankin cooks pan-fried salmon with chilli vegetable ragout and Aleister Little rustles up a raspberry and almond tart (B1982)

11.00 *News* (T) and *weather* (T) (703850)
11.05 *Due South* Leslie Nielsen guest-stars as a legendary Mountie who disappears a week before his retirement, prompting Fraser to set out in search of the man who was once his childhood hero (T) (T) (8702102)

11.50 *Good Neighbours* (2120633)
12.00 *News*, (T) *Regional News and weather* (6861343)

12.05pm *Call My Bluff* (6368091)

12.35 *Neighbours* (T) (3016850)

1.00 *News* (T) and *weather* (91188)

1.30 *Regional News* (42691121)

1.40 *Perry Mason: The Case of the Taltaltale Talk Show Host* An unpopular radio presenter is murdered and the finger points at a colleague, until Perry uncovers a whole host of famous suspects who had a reason to do him in. Starring Raymond Burr (3720458)

3.10 *Galaxy* (859372)

4.00 *Popeye* (708154) 4.10 *To Me, to You* (4476701) 4.35 *Prince of Atlantis* (6163140) 5.00 *Newsworld* (T) (1216508)
5.10 *Record Breakers* (T) (4897121)

5.35 *Neighbours* (T) (538898)

6.00 *News* (T) and *weather* (T)

6.30 *Regional News* (459)

7.00 *EastEnders: Ready, Steady, Cook* Cherie, Harry, and Tony Tobin attempt to create sumptuous meals against the clock. Using ingredients bought from Walford market by *EastEnders* stars Wendy Richard and Todd Carty. Presented by Fern Britton (18) (4121)

7.30 *Top of the Pops* (T) (343)

8.00 *Porridge* Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais classic comedy, starring Ronnie Barker as wily convict Fletcher and Fulton Mackay as his prison officer nemesis (T) (T) (60599)

8.30 *Aunty's Sporting Bloomers* Football pundit Jimmy Hill reveals some unexpected strings to his bow, including showjumping and winter sports (T) (2044)

9.00 *News* (T) and *weather* (8545)

9.30 *Scent of a Woman* (1992) Al Pacino plays a blind, hard-drinking war veteran who pays timid college student Chris O'Donnell to accompany him on a weekend break in the big city. Directed by Martin Brest (2872095)

11.55 *The Hunting Party* (1971) Violent western, with Oliver Reed, Candice Bergen and Simon Oakland. Sadistic Texas cattle baron Gene Hackman vows to wipe out the outlaw gang responsible for kidnapping his wife. Directed by Don Medford (310865)

1.40am *Weather* (2521305)

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BBC2

6.00am *Open University: Danish Energy Crowds?* (8194459)

7.15 See Hear: *Breakfast News* (T) and *singing* (6061589)

7.30 *The Moonlight* (T) (718456) 7.55 *Cartoon Critters* (T) (6025938) 8.20 *Mr Benn* (T) (6703879) 8.35 *The Record* (2022508) 8.40 *Isle of Pongo* (T) (598482) 8.45 *The Phil Silvers Show* (T) (1928762) 8.50 *Myths of the 20th Century* (45411) 10.30 *The Season* (T) (6994)

11.00 *International Gold* Day three of the Loch Lomond World Invitational (7512)

12.30pm *Working Lunch* (42558) 1.00 *Joshua Jones* (T) (2522009) 1.10 *Off the Beaten Track* (9895169) 1.40 *Blockbusters* (58077324)

2.05 *International Gold* Further action from Loch Lomond (1921614)

6.00pm *Duel at Silver Creek* (1982) with Aude Murphy, Stephen McNally and Susan Cabot. Tense western about an outlaw trying to prove his innocence. Directed by Don Siegel (T) (589782) WALES: *Quantum Leap* (399633) 6.45 *United Kingdom* (930188) 7.15 *United Kingdom* (930188) 7.30 *Gardeners' World* (985) 8.00 Gareth Edwards at 50 (782) 10.00 *The World's Toughest Yacht Race* (7985)

11.00am *EastEnders* (T) (2771472)

1.00pm *Global Challenge* (7518)

1.30pm *Global Challenge* competitors (715)

2.30pm *Global Challenge* (7518)

3.00pm *Global Challenge* (7518)

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7.55pm *Global Challenge* (7



BALLROOM DANCING 43

Youngsters with the world at their feet waltz into limelight

SPORT

FRIDAY JULY 11 1997



GOLF 46

US Open champion takes his chance to make a splash



Future of national game at stake

Decision day dawns for English rugby

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH rugby, which, under normal circumstances, would take comparatively little interest in the annual meeting of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), will hope that this evening's assembly at the London Hilton Hotel will bring to a conclusion the worst outbreak of internecine rivalry in the union this century.

Only the rupture between the northern clubs and the rest of the country, which led to the formation of the Rugby Football League in the mid-1890s, has surpassed the union's 125-year history. To that extent, it should not be surprising that the embrace of professionalism by rugby union two years ago should have led to a similar upheaval. save that, in England, the feuding has become so bitter and personalised that it is hard to see certain key figures working with each other in the future.

The all-important motion before the meeting is the election of officers for next season: it is only two years ago that the RFU decided it required a chairman, to relieve the president of some of the day-to-day running of union affairs, but it failed the job to a specific individual rather than laying down job specifications.

Peter Bromage died only five days after being elected chairman, just as Tony Hallatt was coming to terms with his role as secretary in succession to Dudley Wood. In retrospect, the RFU might have been better advised to follow its initial thoughts in seeking Wood's successor — when it employed head-hunters to discover worthy candidates — and choose from outside its own. Instead, Hallatt, one of their committee, was successful and has been forced to fight his corner ever since.

It is not, however — for now — Hallatt's position that is at stake. Cliff Brittle, elected chairman by a 21 majority in January 1996, thanks to a wave of support from the 2,000 small clubs who make



INSIDE

Page 48
An analysis of the candidates, the personalities and the demands on players.

Page 49
A guide to the key issues, the dirty tricks campaign and the mood of the clubs

up the membership of the union, is defending that role against Bob Rogers, the official RFU nominee. That in itself may say something about the disputatious times in which the union is ravelled, but it is by no means all.

It is not beyond belief that the meeting could also refuse to elect Peter Brook as president, even though nobody is standing against him. Usually, the presidency passes seamlessly on an annual basis from one long-serving candidate to another, but these are not normal times. Such is the president's power, those who support Brittle may feel that they must also discover a president who would not choose to overrule him, as John Richardson, from Warwickshire, has found himself having to do during his year of office.

In fact, Brook, 65, the former managing director of a textile company, has an aspect from his service on the International Rugby Football Board and his work with referees that is beyond the

norm. "People have to learn that personalities should not be the foremost thing now," Brook said. "People on our committee and our staff have to realise the game and the union are bigger than any individual.

"We have to have corporate responsibility. I'm sure we will get that because everyone knows we have to have it. It will be a disaster if, after the elections, the losing side does not accept the verdict. This is the epitome of a democratic election and if that is not accepted, it shows you don't accept democracy."

Sir Patrick Lowry, in his report to the RFU special meeting in Birmingham in March, detected a "lack of communication" between prominent individuals involved in this dispute. That is putting it mildly. Brittle has accused the existing RFU hierarchy of acting as a cabal of deceit and a lack of integrity: they, in turn, have accused Brittle of hysterical outbursts, delusions of grandeur and obstructionism.

The existence of the RFU Reform Group, a pressure body with Fran Conon, manager of the British Isles tour to South Africa that has just ended — as its president suggests a groundswell in favour of Brittle today. If he wins, he will seek new applicants for the post of chief executive of the RFU and claims that, should Hallatt be judged the best candidate, he will accept that. Yet such are the differences that have arisen between Brittle and his supporters, and those of Hallatt, Richardson and Colin Herridge, the RFU treasurer, it is almost impossible to perceive them working together again.

The senior clubs, well aware that their vote counts for as much or as little as the most junior club, will watch the situation with a sense of unease, even though they have established a reasonable working relationship with the RFU. They have found Brittle the most rigid of negotiators and they may worry that he may yet seek to implement some form of regional rugby, as envisaged by Conon, his most substantial supporter and who would enjoy a policy-making role within the union.

If Brittle loses, then the revised management already in place will take effect, with Hallatt as chief executive, subject to a review of his role in October. The prospect is, however, that Brittle will win, that Rogers will remain as Susser's representative on the committee and that there will be a blood-letting of considerable proportions unless individuals such as Herridge should choose to fight Brittle's influence. If that happens, then a weary country and the rugby world outside, which has watched with disappointment England's decline as an influential voice, may find that this evening has changed nothing.

Any professional sportsman is only as good as his last race," he said. "If they think to themselves 'I want to be in a better situation', they should try 10 per cent to impress other people. I struggle with the concept of motivation being a factor. If money doesn't motivate, then fear of failure should.

There comes a time when you stop being subtle. There's no point in allowing frustration to build-up inside you. You have to be blunt. A driver

will expect, and receive, little sympathy in the present climate of fevered speculation.

He struck a forlorn figure yesterday when, at a pre-race public appearance alongside Michael Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve, he was presented with tangential evidence of his sudden decline. He was in self-deprecating mood, but the frustrations were obvious.

"It's up to me to help him. I'm not dropping him in it. It is up to everyone to perform better in the second half of the season. A lot of silly mistakes have been made."

Such public criticism will be difficult for a man of Hill's fierce pride to tolerate. He is a deeply sensitive character, whose future remains clouded in the seasonal smokescreen of rumour and innuendo. He

is the same as any other employee and you have to confront the guy with the problem.

"It's not a motivation issue, it's an application issue. Maybe we were too comfortable together. I've got to get him back on the ball for his sake and mine. We both know what he's capable of and that is something better than this.

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"It's going to be difficult to get a win here," he said, triggering cruel laughter. He added, more realistically: "Just getting passed the first lap or finishing the race would do the trick."

"I have got very used to seeing my name at the top of the list in recent years and now sometimes I have to scroll down to the second page to see where I am. It's kinda new. It says your comp. It's difficult to get the best out of yourself in those conditions.

"I'm not going to do a Basil Fawlty, I don't think it would help the situation, but it's been a long old year. The mechanics have put in a lot of effort so far and we've not given them much hope."

Walkinshaw made unfaltering comparisons between Hill and Pedro Diniz, a team-mate notable mainly for the £6.5 million transmutation of sponsorship income that he represented. Tellingly, he also seized on the central theme of collective responsibility.

"At the beginning of the season, we had reliability problems," he said, "but, during the course of the year, that unreliability has been shared 50-50 with the drivers. At Magny Cours, one of them [Hill] went off the road unaid-

ed and the other spun off a couple of times on his in-lap. Give me a break. I hired Damon as world champion to drive this team forward. I respect his admission that, on reflection, he's been struggling to get himself into gear, but he has to do what we are paying him for."

Hill is by no means an

unseizable commodity. Walkinshaw insists an engine deal for 1998 will be in place by the end of August, but he is likely to face competition for Hill's services from teams such as Prost, Sauber and McLaren.

However, the driver has also to face uncomfortably fresh realities. Salaries are likely to be depressed in a buyers' market and his manager, the London lawyer, Michael Breen, is still far from enjoying universal respect in

the obsessively introspective world of the Formula One paddock.

Eddie Jordan, the team owner, whose completion of an engine contract with Mugen Honda was a severe blow to Arrows, summed up the prevailing doubts about the wisdom of Hill's career development.

"What I can't understand is how it took Damon six hours

from start to finish to agree his deal with Tom," he said. "That was such a critical decision. He'd spent 15 years pushing his way up to world champion and to take that sort of decision without a night's sleep seems unwise."

Jordan, of course, wanted Hill to drive one of his cars this season. In Formula One, it is always best to examine the interior motive.

Hill wounded by owner's arrows

By MICHAEL CALVIN

DAMON HILL'S troubled season reached a new nadir yesterday when his professionalism was questioned by the man who invested £4.5 million in his status as world champion. Tom Walkinshaw's strictures, on the eve of the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, were uncomfortably close to public humiliation.

Walkinshaw, owner of the Arrows team, sought to deflect some of the blame for a barren first half of the season on to Hill, who admitted that he has struggled to sustain his motivation in unaccustomed adversity. His criticism was all the more wounding for its measured, clinical tone.

Manners came to a head after the French Grand Prix, when Hill finished three laps behind the winner, Michael Schumacher, after a first lap incident. Walkinshaw (right), irritated but ultimately inured to constant suggestions that the world champion is wasting his talent, informed Hill that it was time that he lived up to the responsibilities of his reputation.

"Any professional sportsman is only as good as his last race," he said. "If they think to themselves 'I want to be in a better situation', they should try 10 per cent to impress other people. I struggle with the concept of motivation being a factor. If money doesn't motivate, then fear of failure should.

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Consider the degree of disunity within the club, it was a manful effort to crush Northamptonshire as they did on Wednesday. It was, however, one of Devon Maloum's green-light days and there is no guarantee that he will be in similar mood on July 29.

Cardiff will stage the most attractive tie of the round, the championship leaders, Glamorgan, against the frustratingly-talented Yorkshire, while Middlesex and Warwickshire, both of whom made hard work of beating inferior opposition on Wednesday, meet at Lord's.

Great days for the under-dog, however, are, by definition, grim days for the giants of the game and the overseas coaches of Surrey and Lancashire, respectively.

Whilst the inquests continued at Old Trafford and the Oval yesterday into the elimination of both the holders and favourites from the NatWest Trophy, their outlandish conquerors had mixed luck in the draw for the quarter-finals of the competition. Nottinghamshire are at home to Essex, which should at least make them some money, but Sussex have an unappealing trip to the club.

Lancashire, however, are reaching the mid-point of the season with their knockout cup status in tatters and the Sunday league offering their one prospect of consolation. Their vast membership has tended to put up with championship mediocrity while they had glorious days at Lord's.

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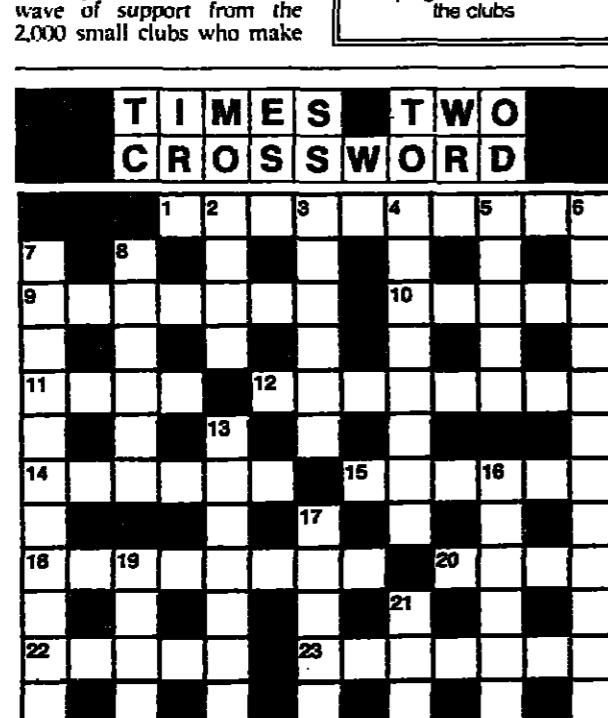
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With the departure of the heavy artillery of one-day cricket — the clubs who

monopolised the limited-overs trophies last year — Essex have taken over the role of favourites. Their dismissal of Worcestershire was typically businesslike and it is difficult to see them adopting Surrey's complacency against the willng but limited resources of Nottinghamshire.

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With the departure of the heavy artillery of one-day cricket — the clubs who



No 1143

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

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Britain urged to cancel arms sales to Jakarta

BY DAVID WATTS

ROBIN COOK met the first test of his new "moral" foreign policy last night when he faced demands from the East Timor leadership that Britain cancel all current agreements to supply arms to Indonesia and freeze further contracts for up to five years.

Facing the Foreign Secretary across the negotiating table was the co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize, Jose Ramos-Horta, who travels the world demanding the withdrawal of Indonesia's occupying force from East Timor.

He wants cancellation of delivery of any further British Aerospace Hawk jet fighter-trainers and renunciation of the contracts under which they have been purchased. British firms supply the Indonesian military with a vast range of equipment from helmets to armoured personnel carriers to radar and software.

After meeting Mr Cook, Mr Ramos-Horta said he had won an assurance that arms exports to Indonesia would be stopped if there was evidence of their use for internal repression. Mr Cook said they had had a good discussion.

The Government is reviewing arms sales policy and expects to be able to announce its conclusions by the end of the month. Until then, the Foreign Office declines to speculate on what it might contain but it is difficult to see how current private sector contracts could be renounced without retaliatory legal action. It is understood that the



Ramos-Horta: test for Labour's moral policy

Foreign Office has drawn up a list of feasible and impractical measures from which the final selection will be made.

"I believe his arms policy review will meet our expectations," said Mr Ramos-Horta of Mr Cook, whom he met several times before Labour came to power. "I agree we should not single out Indonesia, but we do need a code of conduct which Britain can lead the European Union to adopt in line with the recommendations of the Nobel Laureates Commission."

In America — under foreign military sales agreements which are normally government-to-government — Washington can delay or withhold delivery under the guise of national security concerns. Jakarta has recently refused to accept a batch of F16 fighter jets whose delivery had been

embargoed because of Congressional concerns about Indonesia's rights record.

Mr Ramos-Horta had already reaped the benefit of the Labour Government's new stance, persuading Clare Short to channel all government aid to the territory direct to the recipients, rather than through Jakarta, at a meeting earlier in the week. He hopes that Britain will persuade its EU partners to change tack on both arms and aid in line with the United Nations stance under its Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.

Mr Ramos-Horta's meeting with Mr Cook comes against the background of a strengthened Indonesian military presence in East Timor and what is believed to be growing "East Timor fatigue" among Indonesian government officials. Most agree, however, that there will be no change in policy so long as President Suharto is alive.

Mr Ramos-Horta senses a sympathetic mood in the US State Department and says the British Government is on the verge of a new era of world influence with its stance on arms sales.

"Britain is the only country that can play a pivotal role in advancing a new moral and ethical approach in the Security Council," he said.

So convinced is he of the British potential that he will soon establish a new Nobel Laureates' Commission office in London with a \$1 million budget.



A recent picture of David Alex, the Timorese guerrilla leader. There were protests at the way he was brutally handled by Indonesian forces after his arrest.

Americans gave Indonesia the green light to seize territory



INDONESIA took advantage of a messy civil war in East Timor in the wake of the Portuguese withdrawal to move in and annex the territory (David Watts writes).

With American power on the verge of being expelled from Vietnam, and Indonesia only 10 years on from what was billed as an attempted pro-communist coup, the United States and Britain were in no mood to countenance a new and potentially unstable south-east Asian state.

Henry Kissinger gave Jakarta the green light for the operation. A large army and naval force moved into what was a backward territory which Lisbon had done little to advance in almost 500 years of colonialism.

The Indonesian Army crushed all opposition, later annexing the territory in a move which has never been recognised by the United Nations. A small insurgent group of the tough and largely Catholic East Timorese has never yielded to their occupiers

despite massive Indonesian investment in what Jakarta terms a province. Jakarta's extensive efforts at trying to win the population over and massive transmigration of ethnic Javanese to try and change the balance of the population have not had the required effect.

The Bishop of Dili, the Rt Rev Carlos Ximenes Belo, in his speech accepting the Nobel Prize with José Ramos-Horta said that about 200,000 of the pre-war population of 700,000

had died from war and starvation. Continuing brutality against the population of East Timor brings the problem back into the world's headlines regularly. Recently the capture of David Alex, a Timor resistance leader, and his brutal handling by the Indonesian military, has again brought negative publicity for the Jakarta Government.

There are indications that Indonesia has moved fresh reinforcements into the territory.

mander who lives at Hans Pijesak, the Bosnian Serb military command centre, are charged with genocide for the slaughter of up to 6,000 Muslim civilians in Srebrenica. They are also accused over the siege of Sarajevo and using United Nations peacekeepers as human shields.

Nineteen Serbs were charged with atrocities at the Omarska concentration camp near Prijedor, including Zeljko Meadic, the camp commander who is indicted on charges of genocide.

Mile Mrksic, Miroslav Radic, Veselin Sijivacanin and Slavko Dokmanovic, four Yugoslav Army (JNA) officers, have been indicted on charges of killing 261 non-Serbs, rounded up at the hospital in Vukovar, Croatia. Mr Dokmanovic was arrested and brought to The Hague.

Another high-profile war crime suspect who has been indicted and will now be more wary of Sfor patrols is Milan Martic, the former rebel Serb leader in Krajina, who has been charged with ordering cluster bomb attacks on Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, which killed at least seven civilians.

So far, the only successful prosecution has been against Dusan "Dusko" Tadic, who was convicted of crimes against humanity against Muslims and Croats at the Omarska camp. He was arrested in Pale and transferred to the tribunal in April 1995. He is awaiting sentence.

Radovan Karadzic would be the most difficult to arrest because he is aware of the risks he faces and never travels anywhere without a substantial armed bodyguard. He lives in Pale and has, until now, avoided Sfor checkpoints. A new bodyguard was yesterday outside his home in Pale, the former sick resort above Sarajevo, that is his power base. At least 20 policemen were manning the barrier at the entrance of Dr Karadzic's drive. Several wore bulletproof flak jackets and carried automatic weapons. "Who told you he's in?" one asked angrily. "He's not here."

At the former engine factory which is now the Republika Srpska's civil service, soldiers on the gate said they also had not seen Dr Karadzic, who visits the government every day, probably via a secret track in the nearby forest. He and General Ratko Mladić, the former Serb Army com-

Tadic was convicted of crimes against humanity

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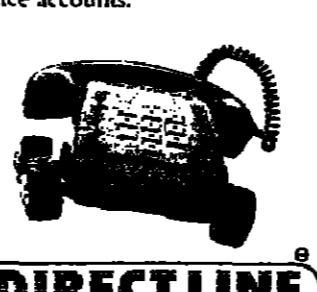
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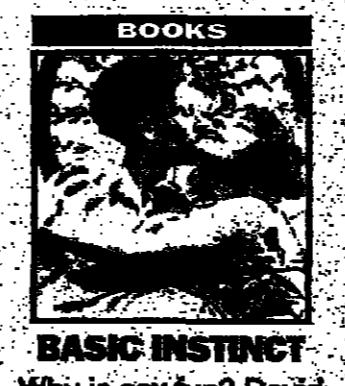
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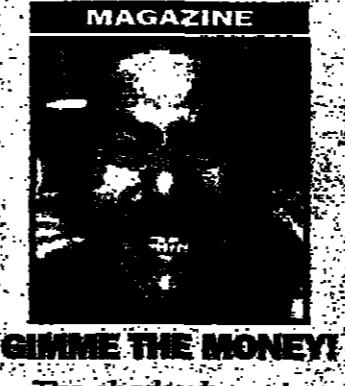
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BOSNIA 17

Bosnia snatch ends in storm of SAS fire

Former police chief stood no chance once he had made the fatal mistake of shooting at the advancing soldiers

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

OPERATION Tango, involving a platoon of between 20 and 30 SAS soldiers backed by American helicopters, began at 9.30am. The troops were guaranteed the one ingredient they needed, surprise.

Neither of the two Serb targets was aware he had been indicted: secretly as a war criminal and both were going about their normal business. They had no reason to suspect an operation against them because, since the arrival of the Nato-led Stabilisation Force (Sfor) last year, they had lived openly in Prijedor and had never been denied by the multinational soldiers.

Milan Kovacevic, director of the Prijedor Hospital and former mayor, went to work as usual, and Simo Drijaca, formerly the town's police chief, was on his way to a fish restaurant situated in the town's outskirts.

Their movements had been watched ever since Sfor was told by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague that the two men had been indicted for war crimes.



A British Nato soldier guards self-propelled howitzers yesterday near Prijedor, site of the SAS operation. The troops were guaranteed surprise, the one ingredient they needed

to back up with Black Hawk helicopters.

Operation Tango was completed by 9.30am. The first mission went ahead as planned without incident. Mr Kovacevic, alleged to have been responsible for the delivery

of prisoners to the Omarska concentration camp near Prijedor, was unarmed and went quietly when the SAS men challenged him at the hospital.

However, Mr Drijaca, his brother-in-law, made what

was to be a fatal move. Assured of carrying a firearm wherever he goes, he was about to enter the restaurant in outer Prijedor for a morning coffee when the small group of SAS men shouted his name. He turned

round. When he saw the approaching soldiers and the hovering helicopters, he grabbed his pistol and fired. A single bullet hit one of the SAS men in the leg, although it proved to be only a minor injury.

The response was instant. The SAS are trained to operate with extreme aggression and the gunfire from the former Serb police chief was answered with a fusillade of shots from 9mm Browning automatic pistols. He died instantly. Operation Tango had lasted 15 minutes. One of the targets lay dead, the other was handed over to the criminal tribunal authorities and was soon on a plane to The Netherlands to stand trial for war crimes.

At the same time, Milan Kovacevic is arrested at Prijedor Hospital, where he is director

of the hospital.

Man behind Serb reign of terror

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE "ethnic cleansing" operation by Bosnian Serbs against Muslim and Croat inhabitants in the northwest town of Prijedor between April 29 and December 31 1992, gave warning to the peacekeeping forces, then under the command of the United Nations, of the savagery that was to be the characteristic of the four-year war.

Prijedor today has hardly changed since the Serb warlords and their heavily-armed soldiers burned the Muslim and Croat houses, ranging the women and children, but the defenceless population. Hundreds, possibly

thousands, were slaughtered at Serb-run detention camps near Prijedor, the most notorious of which was the Omarska camp.

Many of the houses are still burnt-out shells and the only improvement in the daily lives of those still living there, 98 per cent of whom are Serbs, is that the shops are better stocked.

The "ethnic cleansing" in Prijedor became synonymous with the pictures of starvation and brutality that were presented to the world from behind the barbed-wire fencing of Omarska, a former iron ore plant.

One survivor from another camp, called Keraterm, a

former tile factory, reported that up to 160 men had been shot dead after being compelled to sing Serbian nationalist songs.

Those who were not driven out of Prijedor applied in their thousands to leave the town for safer areas. Most of the Muslim families who survived sought sanctuary in Sanski Most, about 40 miles away. The Serbs who lived in Sanski Most swapped their houses for homes in Prijedor. Today, Prijedor is the second biggest town in Republika Srpska and Sanski Most is in the Muslim-Croat Federation.

The Muslims and Croats who were taken from Prijedor to the detention camps were beaten and tortured. There was one gruesome report that two Muslim prisoners were forced to bite each other's genitals.

During the "ethnic cleansing" and genocide of Muslims and Croats in and around Prijedor, Simo Drijaca, the Serb shot dead by SAS soldiers yesterday, was police chief. He boasted of how he led Serb paramilitary gangs who drove local Croats and Muslims from their homes at gunpoint in a reign of terror. He was also involved in setting up the detention camps in the Prijedor area, including Omarska.

Action boosts Clinton policy

FROM BROWNSTEIN MADDOV
IN WASHINGTON

NATO's sudden strike against two alleged Bosnian war criminals was greeted with relief by the White House yesterday, coming after months of frustration in which the United States urged its allies to arrest those responsible for atrocities.

American troops were not directly involved in the move, which marks a step up in aggression by the peacekeeping forces, Sandy Berger, the National Security Adviser, said yesterday.

The Pentagon refused to comment on whether the US would now put pressure on NATO to hunt down those accused of the most serious crimes: Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader, and General Ratko Mladic.

Yesterday's move eases the Clinton Administration's tortuous attempt to sell its policy of commitment to Bosnia to a

hostile Congress, by suggesting that NATO may finally make some progress towards creating the stability which would allow American troops to withdraw.

Recent hints by President Clinton and Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, that US troops might have to remain in Bosnia beyond the withdrawal date of next June have been greeted with fury by members of both parties. The hints, such as Mr Clinton's remark that "America will not disappear in a year", were prompted by the slow progress towards the Dayton peace accords, in particular the arrest of war criminals.

But Congress is opposed to any steps that might put American troops more at risk, even if they advance the cause of peace. The House of Representatives voted last month to enforce the June 1998 pullout date, although the decision may have only symbolic value as the Senate is

unlikely to enforce that line. But the debate highlighted the strength of feeling. Dana Rohrabacher, a California Republican, asked: "Who's nutty idea is this to send Americans into the meat grinder called the Balkans?"

Yesterday's announcement suggests that after months of ducking the issue of war criminals, NATO forces are prepared to act. But unless followed by the arrest of more senior figures, it may not buy Mr Clinton more support.

The Bosnian question could also jeopardise Mr Clinton's efforts to win congressional support for NATO's eastward expansion. This week's Madrid summit fanned opposition to it. Critics cite the extra cost and risk to troops' lives. The 20 outspoken Senate critics of NATO expansion hope to use any extension of the Bosnia pullout deadline to argue that troops could be dragged into never-ending commitments.

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Pressure grows on Moi with threat of strike

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

KENYA'S Opposition yesterday vowed to step up the pressure on President Moi with a general strike later this month and a national day of mourning for 14 people killed in demonstrations this week.

Richard Leakey, the secretary-general of the Safina party, said he expected a "mass, mass turnout" in Nairobi's Uhuru Park at a church service for the victims of clashes between police and pro-reform demonstrators.

Among the reforms being demanded is the right to free assembly. This week's gatherings, which defied a ban on unlicensed meetings, were savagely broken up by Kenyan police who were internationally condemned for their brutality. But Dr Leakey said he expected the Government to allow the church service to go ahead.

"The momentum is most certainly being maintained," said the conservationist turned political activist.

Perceiving Dr Leakey's party as a major electoral threat, Mr Moi has refused to register Safina, which means it cannot take part in Kenyan politics. The refusal has been bitterly criticised by the British and American Governments.

Demands that Safina should be allowed to be regis-

tered have been ignored for the past two years by a President who, analysts say, is wary of Dr Leakey's popularity and the widespread belief that Safina might be able to unite a badly split Opposition into a front to depose the ruling Kenya African National Union.

Yesterday riot police were withdrawn from Nairobi's street corners, where they had been battling students since Monday. But the return to calm came too late for tour operators, who said they had experienced "enormous numbers of cancellations" because of the unrest. Kenya earns

"We will try to have the 14 coffins of those killed this week in Uhuru Park, and then we can explain how the dead became martyrs. There is no chance that we are going to ease off on the pressure."

He offered Kenya's President an olive branch by suggesting that, if Mr Moi agreed to a national constituent assembly that would draft a new constitution for the country, many opposition figures would agree to extend the presidential term beyond the end of this year. "If the voice of sensible leadership is not allowed to be heard, the rabble will take over," he said.

Letters, page 23



Leakey: rabble will take over if reason ignored

most of its foreign exchange from overseas visitors to its coast and game parks. About 40,000 Britons travel to the former British colony each year, but the number is likely to drop dramatically in the next few months.

Dr Leakey said that many opposition leaders, including 11 MPs who were teargassed and beaten when police invaded Nairobi's All Saint's Cathedral, were "very afraid" of government attempts to silence them. But he vowed to continue his fight for registration, the freeing of Kenya's airwaves and other reforms.

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Letters, page 23



Japanese rescue workers dig through debris for missing villagers in Harihara yesterday after the landslide.

Japanese landslide kills 19 villagers

HARIHARA, Japan: Tons of mud and rocks swept over this southern Japanese village as residents were asleep yesterday, killing 19 people after a mountainside loosened by recent earthquakes collapsed during torrential rain.

Two residents of Harihara, where orange-growing is a key activity, were missing and 15 were in hospital after a landslide just after midnight buried homes roof-high in mud, rocks and trees. Nearly 1,000 rescuers, including soldiers,

dug through debris in the village in Kagoshima prefecture on southern Kyushu island, 600 miles southwest of Tokyo. But fears of another landslide cartwheeled the operation. "I've never seen such a disaster," said Tatsuro Suga, the Governor of Kagoshima, at the place where the village had stood.

Harihara was buried under an estimated 260,000 cubic yards of debris, a volume that rescue workers said would fill 16,000 large trucks. Triggered by four

days of heavy rain, the side of a hill overlooking the village crumbled and sank into the narrow Harihara River. "I heard the ground roar and looked outside the door," said one housewife, now in hospital. "Then I realised that my neighbour's house was not there. I was terrified." (Reuters)

■ BEIJING: Persistent rains have kept floodwaters high in southern China, causing at least 56 deaths and damage estimated at more than £130 million. (AP)

WORLD SUMMARY

Kim 'plots blitzkrieg on Seoul'

Seoul: A Pyongyang defector claimed yesterday that Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader, had rejected reform in his hunger-stricken nation and was plotting a lightning war against the South as his only escape.

Hwang Jang Yop, a Communist theorist before fleeing to Beijing in February, conceded he had no proof for an earlier claim that the North could launch a nuclear attack, but said: "The North's war preparation is beyond imagination."

In the meantime, the World Food Programme, a United Nations agency, was intensifying its efforts to save tens of thousands of North Korean children from starvation by launching a new appeal for \$46 million (£27 million) in food aid. (Reuters)

Volcano isle aid

London: Britain promised another £6.9 million in emergency aid for the residents of Montserrat, living in the shadow of an erupting volcano, while the Government considers easing restrictions on their entry to Britain (Glen Owen writes). About £6.5 million is being earmarked for an emergency shelter to house residents, with a further £450,000 intended for the temporary hospital on the island.

HIV jailing

Helsinki: Steven Thomas, 36, a rap singer from New York who is HIV-positive, was jailed here for 14 years for knowingly spreading the virus that can cause Aids. He had unprotected sex with 17 women in Finland while knowing he was an HIV carrier. Each of the five who became infected was awarded £34,000 damages. (AP)

Sikh arrested

New York: Police have arrested a man known as the "Sikh Godfather", charging him with fraud, extortion and the murders of several Indian immigrants (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Gurmeet Singh Dhillon, 35, who arrived penniless in New York in 1984, now owns 51 petrol stations and a waterfront mansion in Brooklyn.

Pet obsession

New York: A woman who pierced the ears of her pet lawn, making it wear cross-shaped earrings, was charged with cruelty by police in Virginia (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Ed Clark, president of the Virginia Wildlife Centre, described the ear-piercing as "the absolute worst kind of human interaction with wildlife".

Segregated buses anger feminists

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL, pioneer of respect for women's rights in a region where they are often ignored, announced plans yesterday for sexually segregated buses in ultra-Orthodox districts of Jerusalem and the Tel Aviv suburb of Bnei Brak.

The decision infuriated many secular Israelis who said that it was another example of the liberal Israeli way of life being eroded by politicians from the religious parties, who now hold 23 seats in the 120-seat Knesset and whom many Jewish leftwingers brand as "ayalinahs".

The system whereby women will enter and sit in the rear of the buses — the main form of public transport in Israel — was recommended by Yitzhak Levy, Transport Minister and a member of the National Religious Party which commands a critical nine seats in the ruling coalition of Benjamin Netanyahu.

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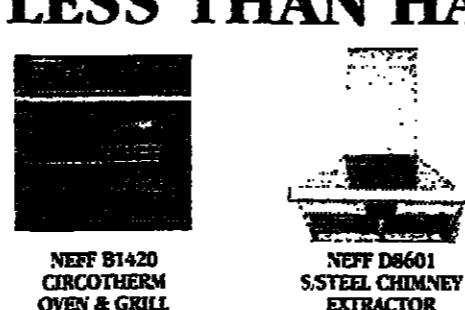
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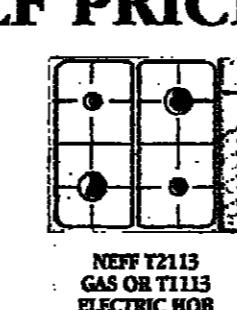
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'All my keepers are here - poachers will have a field day'

Jane Shilling among the sturdy backwoodsmen who braved London

I say, has anyone been to Lancashire?" "No, I simply can't find it anywhere. I was just off to Gloucestershire, are you coming?" "Darling, darling, God, I haven't seen you since we were in *short knickers*." Tantivy, tantivy. "How marvellous, this really is a classless affair, isn't it?"

Mmm, yes and no. It is fair to say that if a bomb had fallen on Hyde Park yesterday, the country's entire gene pool of blue eyes, fair hair and good English complexions would have been wiped out. Clustered beneath balloons marked with the names of the ancient shires of England, the backwoodsmen and their

wives, splendid in sensible skirts, their fingers loaded with filthy diamond rings, had gathered in alarming force.

"Most of you," intoned the well-bred voice from the main stage, "will never before have attended a demonstration. For some, it will your first ever visit to London." Now that

was certainly true. Gazing at the acres of Hyde Park, most uncharacteristically covered in shooting sticks and picnic blankets and stout chaps wearing venerable bits of fur and feather which had once been attached to some small creature, you realised that all these people were far too busy attending point-to-points deep

This was no place for the squeamish sensibilities of metropolitan in-betweens. Wisely, perhaps, those who didn't care for the sound of John Peel's horn seemed to have stayed away.

in the crevices of rural England even to contemplate negotiating the exhaust-choked thoroughfares of London. Unless it was a matter of life and death. Which, of course, it was. Mainly death.

The Countryside Rally, 1 July 1997, claimed the little badge we were each given at the entrance. Below it, there was a tiny, tasteful illustration of the various elegant ways in which the denizens of the countryside put an end to the lives of their fellow-occupants of field and stream and spinney and hedgerow — a huntsman and hounds; an angler; a falconer; a silhouetted figure with shotgun and labby... No pictures, curiously enough, of furvite figures with spade, sack and struggling badger, or four-wheel-drive vehicle groaning with out-of-season corpses — though those country pursuits that lie nearer to the heart of Eddie Grundy than Mr Facey Romford were definitely at the forefront of some minds. "Brought all my keepers with

me," said one anxious landowner. "Big mistake. Bloody poachers will have a field day."

As a genteel rabble-rouser issued an ominous warning to the Prime Minister — "You will find yourself presiding over a Disunited Kingdom" — of the dire consequences that would follow the removal of an Englishman's sacred right to slaughter anything that takes

his fancy (so long as it is in season, to be sure), it was impossible to repress the thought, looking around, that he already is. Middle-class, metropolitan, a lover of luvvies rather than lurchers, chintz rather than ancient claret, a man whose spirit reaches out more naturally to the muddy ravers of Glastonbury than the invigorating yelp of the Quantock stag.

hounds, Mr Blair would have been as horribly out of place in this *galore* as poor Jeremy Irons discovered himself to be.

His opening gambit, "Two months ago, to the great relief of many of us, the Labour Party was elected with a massive majority", was greeted with a ghastly silence from the crowd, which had otherwise shown itself wonderfully disposed to cheer — even raising a loud *Hip Hip Hooray* for a not wholly inspiring ditty in praise of *Country Sports* (*There are country sports of all sorts to fill our leisure days. Developed over centuries to blend with nature's ways*).

A startling manifestation of the alliance between the people

who own the land and the people who work on it (as Lady Redesdale once put it: "I know lots of the working classes, and they are all *perfectly sweet*"), this was no place for the squeamish sensibilities of metropolitan in-betweens. Wisely, perhaps, those who didn't care for the sound of John Peel's horn seemed to have stayed away. Except for one brave lady who accosted us. "Have you seen what can happen to a cat when it is thrown to the hounds?" she demanded crossly of my companion, a serial and unrepentant *sin murderer*. "Very unfortunately," said he, with all the considerable charm at his disposal, "I never have."

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Shopping for pleasure, not duty

Hot guide for a cool summer



convened even the most relaxed cabin luggage restrictions.

The Far Eastern duty-free shop is also the focus of brands of Scotch stored in such exotic vessels as porcelain golf balls. When it comes to duty-free spirits there is a tip for Tory backbenchers: who wish to impress prominent members of the Far Eastern arms purchasing community: bypass the bottle of cask-strength Glenlivet 12-year-old single malt and head straight for the super premium blends. Johnny Walker Blue Label and Chivas Regal Royal Salute may seem expensive, but be assured, there is nothing your average warlord likes more than a tumbler of Blue Label before signing a lucrative order.

However, the duty-free world is not without its moments of bathos. Having heard much about the splendours of Dubai duty-free, I experienced only disappointment when I descended into this subterranean mall. I did, of course, purchase a few gold knick-knacks, sold by weight, but even the fabled prize draw for a motor car seemed lacklustre and only found favour with a bunch of corrupt German dentists.

However, occasional amazement has to be put in perspective. The world can offer few more perfect moments than the unexpected pleasure of coming across just the right ashtray in the deepest, darkest, most unlikely of port or the thrill of finding a box of Cohiba Robustos in the excellent humour at Geneva.

In an increasingly hectic world there can be few more happy combinations than a delayed flight, a well stocked tax-free shop and a long line of credit.

NICK FOULKES

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'It felt like living in a museum'

It will be two years in October since Harry Percy, the 11th Duke of Northumberland and godson of the Queen, was found dead in his private apartment at Syon House, Isleworth, from an overdose of amphetamines. A playboy and dilettante, he was the opposite of Ralph, his more introspective younger brother.

Ralph is the present duke, and the transition to that status was, one feels, shattering. He and his wife Jane are a reticent couple, enjoying the remoteness of Alnwick Castle, the ancestral seat set in 90,000 acres of rugged countryside in Northumberland. Inheriting one of the finest estates in Britain under such traumatic circumstances was a "bewildering experience", the duchess admits.

Suffering from depression and ill-health, the late duke — 42 when he died — had lived a precarious life, drawing on his extravagant personal wealth to indulge a fascination with film and Hollywood. A keen partygoer, he played Europe's celebrity circuit; his girlfriends included the Nicaraguan actress and former Bond girl Barbara Carrera, and Valerie Campbell, mother of the troubled supermodel Naomi. Despite the excesses of his lifestyle, his family was unprepared for his death.

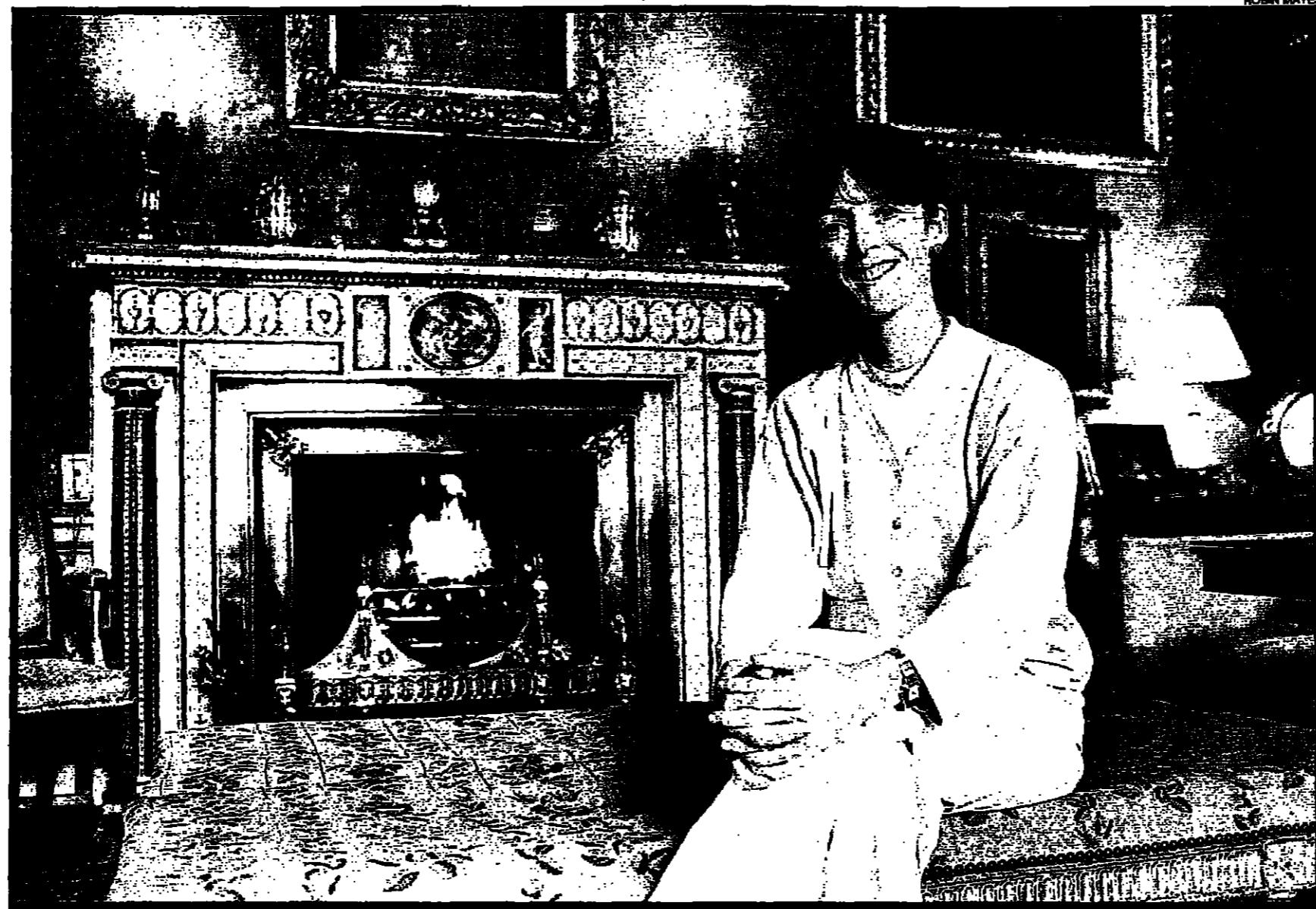
"My brother-in-law was terribly miserable most of the time," says Jane. It was unseasonably wet and she huddles next to an open fire in the drawing room of Syon House. "He had been ill for more than 20 years [he was thought to have had ME] but his illness was not life-threatening. So his death came out of the blue. He just took too many pills. My husband never expected to inherit the title, although we thought our eldest son, George, might one day."

The prospect frightened George. "He would come home from school and say children were ribbing him about Harry," she says. "He'd say: 'I never, never want to be a duke.' I'd say: 'Don't worry, Uncle Harry is going to live into his eighties and will have children late in life.'"

Then when Harry died, George was awfully upset. He couldn't bear the thought of inheriting the title. So I said: 'This changes nothing, I want you to work hard at your studies and have a normal family life.' But really it was a terrible shock for us all, and very difficult."

The duchess says her husband was close to his brother, even though they were utterly different. Harry lived in London while his brother enjoyed country pursuits and ran the family firm, Northumberland Estates. "They were good friends. Harry had a strong sense of duty; he cared about Alnwick. He appreciated having Ralph, a much quieter countryman, to look

When her brother-in-law died, Jane Percy became a reluctant duchess. But she has now found a new role by recreating the lost world of the English garden at Alnwick Castle



The Duchess of Northumberland: finding a worthwhile role in the recreation at Alnwick Castle of an old English garden with pavilion and water features

after the estate — to do, I think, what he always wanted to do himself. He had acute depression. One week he was fine, the next he was feeling awful. This led to a real conflict in him..."

Her voice trails away; she pours some coffee. Aged 39, Jane is delicate and fine-boned, dressed casually in a white T-shirt, V-neck sweater and trousers. In the grand drawing room, with its ornate furniture and imperious copies of masterpieces by Holbein and others, the relaxed informality of her dress seems incongruous. Ralph, on the other hand, is an anxious, patrician figure.

The couple met at a party in Northampton during their late teens. Both shy, and both uncomfortable with the frivolities of society parties, the attraction was immediate. "We are both incredibly antisocial, and neither of us wanted to be at the party," Jane recalls. "We were avoiding things, standing in a room which was full of ice for the drinks. We chatted and then decided it would be quite nice not to be there. So he gave me a lift back to the place where I was staying. And that was it."

They continued seeing each other while living in Oxford. He was at university; she was attending Hartwell House secretarial college. When they married, Jane Richard was 20 and Lord Ralph 21.

She is the first duchess in the family to come from outside the aristocracy (her father was an Edinburgh stockbroker), and the marriage, at first, was opposed by



the Percys, whose ancestors include Harry Percy the Hotspur of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*. "There was resistance," she says. "My parents were going through a nasty divorce at the time and they were preoccupied with their own

problems. Ralph's mother and father thought we were too young, and that we weren't serious. But we were determined to get married, so we put an announcement in the paper."

Jane told her mother about the announcement the night before it was due to appear. "A mass panic followed. My father-in-law came round the next morning and tried to persuade us not to marry. He said to Ralph: 'Look, you're only 21. Is this wise? Where are you going to live, what are you going to do?' Ralph said: 'It doesn't matter. We are going to do it.' When they realised we were deadly serious, they accepted us."

After the death of Harry Percy, the Northumblands moved into Alnwick Castle. But they expected to return to their Georgian farmhouse on the estate — where their two sons and two daughters felt most comfortable — after grappling with what the duchess calls "the problems at the castle". In the event, those difficulties were greater than they imagined, and they were forced to stay on at the castle. The situation caused intense anxiety. "For the first year it felt a bit like living in a museum," she says. "It reminded me of places I'd seen in Russia, places that were once filled with people, music and dogs but which were now desolate.

"We were always a tight family unit and I wanted to be there for my children to emphasise the importance of discipline, hard work and responsibility." To ease her transition to a new, more

demanding way of life, the duchess was given responsibility for recreating the lost world of the great English garden at Alnwick. Jane surprised everyone, not least the duke, by the tenacity and diligence with which she tackled her role.

The scale of her ambition is startling. There is nothing for which she has not planned. Responding to a suggestion from the Prince of Wales, patron of the project, she even had media coaching. She says: "When the project was launched, and we were having our picture taken, I said to Prince Charles: 'I hate doing this, I hate it.' He turned round and told me to get professional advice on how to present myself and how to answer tricky questions."

What did she learn? "Oh, that I should think before I speak. I know that I have something fantastic to sell and that I could blow it by saying just one stupid thing," she says. What she is selling is nothing less than the opportunity for sponsors to share in her vision for Alnwick.

The new garden will include a 12-acre temporary plot, a pavilion and waterworks, in a Capability Brown setting, in the shadow of the medieval castle. There will be cascades, waterfalls, pools, and miniature canals.

Working with her are some of the world's most remarkable garden designers and architects, including Tadao Ando, the Japanese architect whose favourite medium is concrete and glass, and Louis Benech, who worked on the restoration of the Royal Gardens at the Tuilleries in Paris. These experts do not come cheap: the estimated cost of the project is £10 million, of which the family is intending to contribute "about a quarter".

Surely, though, a family with an estimated fortune of £100 million ought to pay for the entire project itself?

The duchess listens patiently but counters with: "People don't understand that you can't just take, say, a Canaletto off the wall and sell it. These pictures and this furniture are not ours to sell [they are held in trust] and £10 million is an awful lot of capital to find. The garden will be shared, too — with the people of Northumberland. It's a public project."

The duchess is not a reactionary. She is adapting to the role given her and is neither daunted by the burden of history, nor in thrall of the past. "What I plan is not simply a restoration but a complete recreation of a great English garden in a contemporary design. It's my dream to do something extraordinary at Alnwick, which will be a lasting achievement admired by generations to come."

The old man sits in a wheelchair, mouth open, jaw slack, staring vacantly at the white marble wall behind the judge — a stern, bald man with bushy grey brows.

A parade of witnesses, some of the most ruthless killers in America, moves across the stained oak floor between them, detailing a career of shakedowns, kickbacks, drugs deals and murder.

Masticating soundlessly, the old man appears to hear none of it. He is Vincent "the Chin" Gigante, *capo di capo* of the Genovese crime family, says the FBI. This frail old man with the blank eyes is alleged to be the boss of

End of the road for the Oddfather

Vincent Gigante's trial in New York has put an end to the power of the old-style Godfathers, reports Barry Wigmore

bosses in the New York Mafia, and this is the Mafia's last stand. Here, in Court Ten of the Brooklyn Federal Building, the Mob is going out not with a bang, but with a whimper. Gigante, 69, is the last Godfather.

The New York papers call him the "Oddfather". For 27 years Gigante has dodged

murder and racketeering charges by pretending to be crazy, say US prosecutors.

The other kingpins — "Fat Tony" Salerno, Paul Castellano and John Gotti — are either dead or in prison.

Only Gigante was untouchable. He shuffled around Greenwich Village in a dirty old dressing gown, talking to himself. When he knew FBI

cameras were watching, which was often, he would stop and urinate in the gutter. But was he crazy, or cunning?

Gigante's rise through the Genovese family was the model for Al Pacino's character in *The Godfather*. Forty years ago the Costello family was on top and its head, Frank Costello, was boss of bosses. But Vito Genovese covered his crown, and Genovese had a new young accomplice eager to rise through the ranks.

Gigante was identified as the man in the bat by the apartment doorman. A warrant was issued for his arrest, but he had disappeared. By the time he turned himself in, months later, Gigante had lost weight and the doorman had lost his memory. Meanwhile, seeing how vulnerable their boss was, Costello's underlings joined the Genovese. Next day Costello retired and Gigante was a Genovese hero. In 1970 he was charged with

walked into the lobby of his apartment building on Central Park West, a fat man in a black hat stepped from the shadows. "This is for you, Frank," he said, firing a gun. The bullet grazed Costello's head.

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Gigante, arrested in his bathrobe

By day, Gigante was acting crazy but, at night, it is alleged, he was dashing around in a chauffeur-driven car masterminding Mob-business. He read newspapers, chaired Mafia meetings, and counted money, say Task Force detectives who made a career of trailing him. He also managed to keep a wife and a mistress happy, string eight children by them.

In their apartments he switched from the grungy dressing gown to smart, clean bathrobes. But when an FBI agent entered the apartment to serve him with a subpoena, Gigante stood naked in the bath holding an umbrella over his head, mumbling incomprehensibly.

Now he is on trial accused of racketeering and ordering seven murders. A judge decided last year that he was sane enough to stand trial.

He got his name from the lantern jaw, repudiated to be hard as concrete, for which he was taunted in his early days as a boxer from the Bronx. In the Mafia his name was never mentioned; when referring to him underlings just pointed to their chins — another reason FBI eavesdroppers found it difficult to nail him.

These underlings have Runyonesque names such as Benny Eggs, Salvatore "Sammy Bull" Gravano, and Big Pete Chioldo, who is in the witness box.

Chiodo, 46, was a Mafia heavy in every sense of the word. At 6ft 6in and weighing somewhere between 25 and 35 stone, he was a killer for the Lucchese crime family. He saw the light when the Mob tried to silence him, suspecting he was about to rat on them.

He, too, sits in a wheelchair, gut hanging down between his knees, quaffing vast quantities of water as he talks in a flat, dead, voice about murders he has committed.

Gigante sits 20ft away, look-

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ing smart in blazer and Polo shirt that lawyers borrowed for him from his son, and with his hair greased back. Judge Jack Weinstein blew his stack and ordered him to smarten up after three days of wayward hair and stubble.

In the public gallery 15ft behind Gigante is his family — plain women wearing the brown and black of Italian peasants, and no jewellery. From the Fulton Fish Market to an annual charity festival in Little Italy, it is said the Mob raked in millions. No sign of it now.

No money. No power. No glory. Just an old man chewing the cud in a wheelchair as the Mafia bows out.

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Our prime ministerial moderniser

Ulster is a crucial test of Blair's rationalism, says John Lloyd

A mere 70 days have passed since Tony Blair became Prime Minister, and they seem to have made him a happy man. He sees his problems as soluble, his challenges as attainable and his strategy as right.

In a major speech tomorrow, he will repeat and refine the ideas he set out in his election campaign — his desire to see a Britain which is modern by equipping the economy for the future and encouraging enterprise; fair in giving greater opportunities to all and in reducing inequalities; and strong in the Government's ability to take clear decisions and push them through. He is as convinced of his rectitude and the soundness of his instincts now as he ever was.

The suspicions which many on the Left harboured of him before the election have, in one respect at least, been confounded. He is no socialist but neither is he a chauvinist, nor does he regard government as in any way a forum for furthering religious belief. On the contrary, he is relentlessly modern, modernist and modernising. It becomes clear that he sees Britain as a fine but dusty piece of furniture in bad need of cleaning and repair. The "modern" part of his triptych of qualities is the first and, to him, the most important: the standard by which the other two, fairness and strength, are tested. It is that which leads him to lend his support to the proposed ban on foxhunting, his desire to appeal to Middle England has its limits, and his instinctive shrinking from the arcane blood-rituals of the shires seems to be one of these.

How does such a rational, modernising man approach the crisis which has blown up in Northern Ireland? In the first place, he is fully and passionately engaged. But it is with the passion of the rationalist who can do no more than appeal to the partisans in the trenches to rise above their ancient feuds — as he did at Question Time on Wednesday. "It is appalling," he said, "that intransigence on both sides obscures the fact that the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland want and deserve the chance of a lasting peace there. It could be done if people would understand that, if it is to be achieved, it requires their commitment all the way through."

Mr Blair thinks that beneath the violence triggered by the Drumcree march last weekend, there is a peace process waiting to be restarted: that Sinn Féin is so split on tactics and so clearly cynical that it lacks even a residual attraction to the Irish or US Governments and is increasingly out of step with the wishes of constitutional nationalists in the North and the South. He thinks Marjorie Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, is little short of heroic and that she will succeed in weathering this storm.

In his visit to Northern Ireland soon after taking office, Mr Blair gave a speech in which he pledged his fidelity to

Unionists have given him little for his commitment

curious thing. Mr Blair has said what he thinks on the Union and on the need for modernised politics in Ulster. But neither he nor Dr Mowlam has yet followed it through. He has given to the Unionists a huge reward: his commitment to the Union. But they have done nothing equivalent for him, nor does he seem to have extracted a quid pro quo. He has not pushed David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, to commit himself to the steady creation of a non-sectarian Unionism on which the future of the Province as part of the UK depends — even though Mr Trimble would in most moods like to see such a development.

It is almost as if the Prime Minister lets frankness be his banner and his policy, and disdains to do the deals which his display of frankness would entitle him to make. It is as if he were saying: "I have said what's what; if others cannot see it, that is their loss."

Modern, fair and strong. It is the Prime Minister's vision of his Government, his country and himself. He is wholly engrossed in the task of giving the vision flesh. He retains, in these earliest days, his boyish looks and his boyish sense that openness, reason and good will prevail. And if he fails? Well, he fails — but so does everyone else. So far, he does not seem to entertain a suspicion that he will fail.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman. On Tuesday he was awarded the David Watt Memorial Prize for Journalism.

Close fit

BACKSTAGE at the Royal Opera House's final gala performance on Monday before it closes for two years of refurbishment will be an opera bouffe compared with the tearful adieux being made on stage. For the end of Covent Garden's chaotic, seemingly endless final year before closure, the opera singers' dressing rooms have been closed and they have been forced to share digs with the ballet dancers.

On any normal night, when the

rooms need accommodate either the opera company or the ballet troupe but never both, the arrangement is barely tolerable. The singers cannot stand all the dust left behind by the dancers' costumes and cosmetics, as it interferes with their vocal cords. When not required onstage they have been seen popping outside, sometimes to a local pub, rather than to their dressing rooms.

On Monday, however, the Opera House is providing a mixed bill of opera and ballet, topped by Plácido Domingo and the ballerina Sylvie Guillem. They will all be squeezed into one set of dressing rooms. "It is a very difficult time," says a spokesman at the Opera House. "The ballerinas' dressing rooms here have always been dilapidated compared with those of the opera singers. They may find the circumstances particularly painful." Surprise guests are promised by the Opera House. In the light of the cramped conditions, the cast are hoping that the 17-stone Luciano Pavarotti is not among them.

The result put Newt Gingrich, the unpopular Speaker of the House of Representatives, below G. Gordon Liddy, the unrepentant Watergate conspirator, but above a



Sylvie Guillem: squashed

Peter Brookes
and T. Bewick
11 vii 97



Blooding, or His First Outing.

Seeing is deceiving

Computers make media fakery easy. But where should we draw the line?

YOU ARE THERE... said the *Daily Sketch* of August 9, 1963, under a dramatic photograph, "as Balalaika and his 40 thieves make their getaway from the Greatest Train Robbery of All Time. They sprint away from Jack Mill's stranded diesel with £2 million. Slewed across the road are the getaway lorry and cars. YOU ARE THERE..."

Er... with a reconstruction from the models in London's famous Gamages Store." Ah well. At least *The Sketch* owned up.

Last Sunday afternoon and for the first time ever, I was unable to find any national newspaper in my local news shop in Derbyshire. There is no mystery about this. That morning the latest pictures of the surface of Mars, taken as the little rover Sojourner left the *Pathfinder* spacecraft, had become available. You could be the finest wordsmith in Fleet Street, but nothing sells newsprint like a good picture.

Silly, really. When I did see the pictures in Monday's *Times*, Mars looked much like the Algerian Sahara: if anything, rather less sci-fi than the surface of Lanzarote. But this was Mars. It really was. And the picture was worth a thousand words because it was the real thing.

Which brings us to the *Rhodesia Herald*. I cannot swear with hand on heart that what follows is true, but this was the story a fellow used to tell, before he died about ten years ago. His name was Eugene Wayson, and in the 1960s he worked as an editor on a daily newspaper in what was then called Southern Rhodesia.

I lived in Salisbury (now Harare) at the time and I think Mr Wayson worked at the *Herald*, although I cannot establish it for certain. He was, however, at the helm of a newspaper somewhere in Central Africa on the evening of July 18, 1965. The date is easy to fix because this had been the day on which the first close-up pictures of Mars had been taken from NASA's *Mariner 4* space probe. The world was agog. Newspapers in Central Africa were lucky because time differences with the United States meant that the pictures, which were to be transmitted down the wires by Reuters, would with luck reach newspaper printing presses there just before the deadline for the next day's editions. Rhodesian readers would be among the first in the world to see the pictures.

But the timing was tight. The *Herald* was printed on an old-fashioned hot-metal press and you needed to plan. Trusting that Reuters would deliver when promised, Wayson had the press for the rest of the front page made up, leaving a big hole in the middle for the picture. This could be added at the last moment, when it arrived.

It did not arrive. The minutes ticked by. The lorries were waiting to distribute the paper across Rhodesia's huge distances, through the night. The editor began to despair.

Eugene Wayson was a huge man

with a big weight problem. His life was a struggle with diets and slimming aids. For long spells he would dine on little more than Ryvita, cheese and whisky. As deadlines approached and passed, he sipped his whisky and contemplated sending out the paper with a big white space in the middle of the front page. He stared out into the African night and down at his Ryvita, lit from the side by the desk lamp. The biscuit's humps and hollows cast long shadows across its craggy surface.

An idea struck him. He called the duty photographer over. "Take a close-up of that Ryvita," he said to the incredulous employee, "and let's have a look at it."

And so it happened that the *Rhodesia Herald* got its scoop. The Reuters photographs did finally arrive, but they were not as convincing as the biscuit. Wayson claimed later that some South African newspapers with easier deadlines saw his front page and demanded to know why Reuters had given him a better picture than other editors received — and whether they could borrow his.

Is the story true? We have ransacked the newspaper archive at Colindale in London and found microfilm copies of the *Rhodesia Herald* both for *Ranger's Moon* photographs in 1964 and for *Martian's Mars probe* in 1965. Frankly, both are consistent with the Ryvita theory, while the Mars picture is consistent with any old biscuit you

care to offer, or a piece of carpet. But I cannot be sure. Rather than libel the *Herald*, I had better offer the tale as a Fleet Street urban myth.

What can be asserted without hesitation, however, is that the cynicism the tale illustrates is alive and well in the news media. I offer two examples from my own experience.

In 1987 or 1988, when I was presenting LWT's Sunday morning current affairs programme *Weekend World*, we decided to make a documentary about the underclass. A film crew was dispatched to Liverpool and Manchester for heart-

rending pictures of wretched people in wretched settings, and crying children.

But as I was the link between the different sequences of the programme we needed footage of

me in a wretched setting. We only had an afternoon. It was too late to send me with a crew to the same sites in the provinces. We settled on a bomb site near the railway out of King's Cross, littered with old supermarket trolleys and mattresses.

But we wanted to make it look like the North, and a problem arose all the best angles included rail track behind me, and suburban trains which were obviously of a London type kept rattling past. So I just kept parroting my links, over and over again, until the right coincidence with an InterCity train which could have been near Liverpool, rather than London, occurred. Legit? Just about. I judge, just on the borderline. To the acceptable side of that borderline is a very common broadcasting practice called audio "wildtrack". After recording, say, an interview in a garden, you record further 30 seconds of tape without voices. This is in case silences need to be inserted in cutting the interview — silences which, with all their incidental background noises (birdsong, traffic noise) must sound real.

On the unacceptable side of the borderline I would place a practice I encountered last year when I had occasion to compare the treatment of the Dunblane massacre by two

evening television news programmes, one later than the other. In the first we saw pictures of friends and relatives outside the school waiting for news. As the names of the dead came through, we heard a woman wail "no, no, no". Viewers could identify her in the crowd, distraught with grief as a teenage boy tried to console her.

For the later news, an editor must have decided that this picture was too intrusive. He did not, however, want to waste the dramatic soundtrack. So although the picture broadcast was, as before, of the waiting crowd, a new piece of footage in which no individual looked so agitated had been chosen. But against it was laid down the original soundtrack "no, no, no".

What this programme-maker had done was, in effect, to use a bit of grief-stricken soundtrack as wildtrack, backed a different scene from that during which the cry had been uttered. I do not know why I find this so utterly offensive, but I do.

But as I was the link between the different sequences of the programme we needed footage of

S o how do you draw the line? No pressing moral dilemma faced the Editor of the *Daily Sketch*, because a toyshop from Gamages was so obviously a toyshop from Gamages that the temptation to pull wool over the readers' eyes did not present itself.

But we wanted to make it look like the North, and a problem arose all the best angles included rail track behind me, and suburban trains which were obviously of a London type kept rattling past. So I just kept parroting my links, over and over again, until the right coincidence with an InterCity train which could have been near Liverpool, rather than London, occurred. Legit? Just about. I judge, just on the borderline. To the acceptable side of that borderline is a very common broadcasting practice called audio "wildtrack". After recording, say, an interview in a garden, you record further 30 seconds of tape without voices. This is in case silences need to be inserted in cutting the interview — silences which, with all their incidental background noises (birdsong, traffic noise) must sound real.

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MPs for Mid-Sussex, of Men of Harlech.

Top of the league, unsurprisingly, was Soames, who boasted of a 28lb salmon caught on the River Nith in Dumfries and Galloway two years ago. Next came Michael Ancram, MP for Devizes with a 24lb salmon, then Tilly Legge-Bourke, the former royal nanny, with a 21lb salmon. Jeremy Irons, the actor, was a surprise entry with an exotic 10lb trout. Farther down, Michael Heseltine had caught a 7lb salmon while the king prawn was John Gummer, the former Environment Secretary. Although a keen supporter of field sports, he admitted he would not know the right end of a fishing rod if it came complete with a maggot attached.

Hooked

BY WAY of separating the true country folk from the groupies at yesterday's Countryside Rally in Hyde Park, PHS compiled a quick index of countryside credibility by asking those present who had caught the largest fish. Into this poll must be added the exaggeration factor, fuelled no doubt by the spirit of defiance and the bracing renditions by Nicholas Soames,

of *Times* DIARY

Coutts & Co. the Queen's bank, with a win at Newmarket ended in misery yesterday when her three-year-old colt Vain Tempest finished well down the field in the EMCOR handicap. "She looked pretty grim," said a racegoer.

Three-way tie at the bottom be-

tween Louis Farrakhan, head of

the Nation of Islam, Rush

Limbaugh, the right-wing radio

"shock jock", and the Prince.

MP for Mid-Sussex, of Men of

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the right end of a fishing rod if it

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attached.

Cheap date

INSPIRED by the example of

Ralph Fiennes, best-known for his

role in the Oscar-winning *The English Patient*, another Hollywood

star, Kevin Spacey, is to perform

for Equity minimum rates on the

London stage.

Best known for his role in *The Usual Suspects* and as the serial

killer in *Seven*, Spacey is to appear in *The Iceman Cometh* by Eugene O'Neill at the Almeida Theatre, Islington. He saw Fiennes in Chekhov's *Ivanov* at the Almeida

ASLIPPER

Nation's

Britain's dogfight with Kohl
David Hart tells the inside story of the Eurofighter

Chancellor Kohl and his Government have led the drive to closer integration in the European Union. They are also very keen on a European Defence Identity, current Brussels jargon for some kind of European military merger. Yet their performance as a leading partner in the most important collaborative military project in Europe, development of the four-nation EF2000 combat aircraft, has hardly been commendable.

In fact, it has been lamentable. The British taxpayer has spent £2.7 billion on the project so far. Of that sum at least £500 million is a direct result of German Government expediency, according to industry sources. More important, a competitive fighter is essential in our defence. Apart from the fundamental role of defending the British Isles from air attack, land forces can only be deployed into any theatre — for example the Gulf — if commanders can be reasonably sure of air superiority.

Today the German Cabinet is expected, six months late, to decide to commit the money for the production investment stage of the project. Even if it does so, it still has to convince the Bundestag, by



AFTER THE PARTY

Now watch Nato governments quarrel about the bill

The cheers that greeted him in Poland yesterday will have strengthened Bill Clinton's conviction that history is on the side of Nato's decision to enlarge. But in choosing to address the Polish street party against the camera-friendly backdrop of Warsaw's Castle Square, the President had another audience in mind. Back in America, the Madrid summit marks the start, not the conclusion, of public debate on the wisdom of Nato enlargement; and ratification by the US Senate cannot be taken for granted.

Madrid starts the transformation of Nato into something that Americans have yet to understand and may not support. The policy is vulnerable on two main grounds, risk and cost. The influential Senator Jesse Helms is already grumbling about this "new diluted Nato, converted from a well-defined military alliance into a nebulous collective security arrangement". In addition, trouble with America's allies is certain if Congress insists that the accession negotiations lay down a firm burden-sharing division of the bill for admitting the new members.

Typical of the duplicities surrounding this whole strategy is the silence about costs. At Madrid, British officials claimed that the impact on defence spending would be negligible. President Chirac said baldly that France would not pay a single extra franc for enlargement. Costings done in the US vary wildly, from the Pentagon's \$27-35 billion to the \$125 billion estimated by the Congressional Budget Office. But what is already clear is that the US intends Nato's European members to pick up all but about 6 per cent of the total. That means at least \$19 billion for West European Nato members and \$14 billion for the three successful applicants.

With regard to its existing Nato allies, the US has a strong case. America accounts for around 60 per cent of current Nato defence budgets, the gap in military capabilities is widening and the Europeans, Britain apart, have barely begun to build and equip the modern, highly mobile forces called for in Nato's new Strategic Concept. Some Nato members boast little more than paper armories; all are cutting spending. Enlargement merely makes modernisation more urgent. Since Nato forces are not to be permanently stationed on the new members' territory, effective force projection is imperative if a larger Nato is to retain its credibility.

But when governments are straining every fiscal muscle to meet the EMU deadline, they will strenuously resist US demands for firm commitments even on this count — let alone to help the huge defence conversion effort to make the new members' forces Nato-compatible. These arguments could fracture the existing Alliance; transatlantic quarrels can only make Europe's new democracies less secure.

Politicians may not find it easy to convey to their taxpayers, but money is, in fact, the least serious problem about Nato enlargement. If it offered the best prospect for peace in Europe, the means to this end ought to be found. But despite Nato's effort, through accords with Russia and Ukraine and the Partnerships for Peace, to create an overlap between Nato and non-Nato countries, no such guarantee can be given. Enlargement does not end dividing lines in Europe. It merely shifts them. In the words of one prominent US critic, it will build "a bridge into the 19th century", sowing distrust between "winners and losers".

When Mr Clinton arrives in Romania today, the news cameras he found so useful in Poland will focus attention on this awkward fact. He will be pressed to confirm an invitation to Romania for 1999. He will decline to be drawn, for the good reason that America flatly refused at Madrid to make any commitments beyond Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

The proclaimed purpose of Nato enlargement is to create webs of security throughout Europe. What was woven at Madrid were webs of dissimulation. The formula that Nato is open to all, including Russia, is manifestly untrue; and the encouraging words about Romania and Slovenia in the Madrid communiqué were a smokescreen veiling disagreement between Nato's 16 current members, nine of which lobbied for the inclusion of these two countries.

America won its way at Madrid. Capitol Hill may prove a tougher proposition. As the arguments unfold, the Administration may find itself defending not only Nato's expansion but the need for Nato to exist in a post-Cold War world. The answer must be that Nato means a safer Europe and thus a safer world. Enlargement, a strategy studious with evasions and inconsistencies, makes that answer harder to give.

SPECIAL VICTORY

The SAS has risked its men for Bosnia's future

George Robertson spoke for the nation when he expressed British pride in the SAS operation mounted yesterday to arrest two indicted war criminals in Bosnia. As a piece of daring, it ranked among the most challenging operations that Britain's special forces have undertaken.

The operation came hard on the heels of the Nato summit, where all the talk was of snatching Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladić, the former political and military leaders of the Bosnian Serbs. These men must, indeed, be brought before the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, until those responsible for the atrocities committed at Srebrenica and in numerous villages, no peace in Bosnia is possible. Unless the authors of the policies of ethnic cleansing and murder are brought to account, there can be no expiation of the crimes committed by the thousands under their command. The Bosnian Serbs would remain branded with collective guilt.

Locating and seizing the two men remains a formidable task, however, which was not helped by the loose talk at Madrid or the rising tensions in Republika Srpska as former fighters rally around their leaders. It is therefore all the more of a coup to have gone after two men who in their swaggering defiance believed they had escaped the consequences of past crimes. For just as Nazi leaders faced justice, so too did the commandants of Belsen and Auschwitz, the men who put into practice the policies of genocide. Sime Drijaca was the fanatical

Serb nationalist who ran the Omarska concentration camp, from where the vivid television footage first brought home to the world the depravity and human suffering of the Bosnian war. Milan Kovacevic, the director of the "hospital" that delivered prisoners to Omarska, was also rightly indicted and must stand trial in The Hague.

The British forces in Bosnia have been among the most effective of all the Ior and subsequent Sfor troops. There are few other Nato allies with the training, discipline and, above all, will to carry out operations that could end in death. The French have the daring and the Americans the necessary technical support. But, rather conveniently, Prijedor falls within the British sector, and it fell therefore to Britain to put into operation this first demonstration of Nato's more aggressive policy on war criminals.

The SAS has sent two important messages to the Bosnian Serbs. The first is that the published list of some 75 people wanted for war crimes is not definitive: the sealed indictments contain the names of many more accused of equally heinous behaviour.

No one with blood on his hands should think he can escape retribution. The second message is to Pale: General Mladić and Dr Karadzic may think that they are beyond the reach of Nato, and that in any case the Alliance lacks the will to attempt their arrest. Until now, it is true, the international force in Bosnia has interpreted its mandate with excessive caution. The mandate has not changed, but Nato's resolution has.

A SLIPPERY BUSINESS

Simon's shares must be sold

The intensity of Labour's attacks on Tory sleaze in the last Parliament demands a new Government whose ministers are as honest, visibly honest and dedicated as they can possibly be. It is disappointing, then, to see a Labour minister putting himself in a position in which he is both less effective than he could be and easily accused of conflicts of interest.

Lord Simon of Highbury, Minister for European Trade and Competitiveness, was chairman of BP until May 1. In order to join the Government, he gave up a salary of £874,000 a year. But he has insisted on retaining his holding of £1.15 million of BP shares. And he has not declared them in the register of Lords' interests.

Technically, he is allowed not to do so, but it seems an ill-judged omission, especially since his shareholding was already public knowledge. If he did not break the letter of the Whitehall guidelines, *Questions of Procedure for Ministers*, he surely has broken their spirit. Ministers are told that they are allowed to own shares so long as there is no "actual or apparent" conflict between their public and private interests.

Lord Simon has taken some trouble to try to ensure that this is so. He has promised not to trade his BP shares before January 1998.

His other shares are in a blind trust. He is not involved in any DTI or Treasury business involving BP and he does not see papers that relate to the company.

Other DTI ministers, such as Paul Channon and Michael Heseltine, have held shares in family companies, Guinness and Haymarket. But these were not businesses that spanned the UK economy like BP. Nor were they subject to such government regulation. If Lord Simon were to absent himself from anything touching his former company, he would be emasculated in his job. That should suit neither him nor the Prime Minister, who successfully tempted him to take the job.

Yesterday Ann Taylor, Leader of the House, refused Tory calls for a debate on the issue. If she does not want it aired publicly, she should do well to look again at the matter privately. Lord Simon should sell his shares now and allow his stockbroker to invest the proceeds in his blind trust. When he leaves Government, he can buy the shares back.

This is not yet a question of sleaze. But it does no credit to a Government that was determined to be open and clean in all its dealings. Lord Simon would be a more useful minister — as well as a better symbol — were he to sell his shares.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Just in time

Sleaze, the press and hypocrisy

From Lord Harris of High Cross

Sir, Once again, Simon Jenkins deserves high praise for a brave, lone voice, this time (article, July 5) against the "hypocritical reaction" of the press to the vastly inflated Downey report.

The mighty *Guardian* can (almost) be forgiven for celebrating the triumph of its highly selective brand of investigative journalism, which was characterised by endlessly repeating Mr Mohamed Al Fayed's malicious allegations and exploiting Neil Hamilton's witness statement submitted to the court for the aborted libel action. But why should the rest of the media pack equally present itself for indulging its crude taste for human blood sports?

One effect of Sir Gordon Downey's conscientious construction of a monstrous mountain out of many molehills is to bury two key factors. The first is that his verdict on those elusive envelopes turns on preferring the testimony of the unreliable Mr Al Fayed and his employees to that of Mr Hamilton — without the "independent corroboration" he insisted would have been necessary to support Mr Al Fayed's £4 million accusation against Michael Howard (report, "Howard cleared over Al Fayed bribe accusation", March 7). Having had the advantage of knowing the former MP for Tatton as a trusted friend since his student days 25 years ago, I would certainly require more robust evidence of serious wrongdoing.

The second feature is what may appear a surprising doctrine (paragraph 840, Volume 1) that, in some circumstances at least:

The fact that [an MP's] actions in Parliament are not influenced by such a payment is irrelevant.

For anyone who knows Mr Hamilton's deeply held principles, that statement should immediately dispose of the witch-hunt against him. Thus it is clear that while his long, independent advocacy of competitive markets had earlier suited the purposes of Mr Al Fayed (as it had incurred the enduring animosity of *The Guardian*), there is no substance to the public perception cultivated by the media that the former MP and minister was led to act in Parliament or the Board of Trade against his own well-established beliefs.

The villain of the piece would seem to be *The Guardian's* favourite witness, Mr Al Fayed, who admits to stuffing pockets full of £50 notes with the deliberate, disreputable intention of breaching the resolution of the Commons in 1995 that the offer of money ... to any MP for the promotion of any matter ... to be transacted in Parliament is a high crime and misdemeanour and tends to the subversion of the English constitution.

Yours faithfully,
HARRIS OF HIGH CROSS,
House of Lords.
July 8.

From Mr Paul Smith

Sir, Simon Jenkins dismisses the Hamilton affair as having "little to do with the better government of Britain". As a council officer in a south London borough involved in developing partnerships with the private, public and voluntary sectors, I welcome the requirement to declare annually that I have engaged in no activities which will lead to, or be perceived to lead to, conflict of interest.

My manager and I conduct negotiations through focused, structured meetings, rather than lunches, and all awards or contracts are subject to a thorough internal and external audit to the benefit of everyone, especially local residents.

Perhaps Simon Jenkins could examine the chasm between what might be regarded as normal behaviour and monitoring in the two arms of government, national and local. That Hamilton's behaviour could be dismissed as irrelevant emphasises the need for urgent reform at Westminster.

Yours,
PAUL SMITH,
66 Haldon Road, E4.
paul@pvsdb.demon.co.uk
July 6.

From Lord Pearson of Rannoch

Sir, Isn't it odd that we make such a fuss about allegations that a few backbenchers have been paid small sums of money to ask questions, when in most other countries ministers are bribed hugely to deliver answers?

Yours faithfully,
PEARSON OF RANNOCH,
52 Minories, EC3.
July 7.

Lacking energy

From Mr Nick Lear

Sir, It is so exciting to be one of the chosen. I was doubly excited by a letter from Smart Gas, informing me that my area has been chosen to test-market a revolutionary new gas central-heating system, and that mine was one of the families selected to join a customer monitoring programme. Sadly I will not be able to take advantage of this offer. To qualify, it seems, you must have a gas supply. This village has none.

Yours sincerely,
NICK LEAR,
Knowlands Farm,
Barcombe, nr Lewes, East Sussex.
July 8.

Quelling political protest in Kenya

From the High Commissioner for Kenya

Sir, Readers of your leader on Kenya might take the view that there are parallels to be drawn between recent events in Kenya and Northern Ireland. In both cases the law had to be upheld in the interests of the majority of the people — and the Government had to take difficult but firm decisions which led, perhaps inevitably and certainly regrettably, to sporadic violence.

It is true that the international community turned a blind eye to electoral rigging in 1992. It saddened many of us to read the Commonwealth report on the 1992 elections in Kenya which pronounced them to be "free and fair". Since that time Moi has presided over growing political and financial corruption in Kenya, the erosion of fundamental human rights and a failing economy. Lives are now being lost in an attempt to stem this tide — a tide that will only change with a level playing field at the next election.

I look in envy at the freedom you enjoy in Britain to debate and enhance your own constitutional rights. I also look in envy at the freedom you have to participate in your own local and general elections, whether as candidates, party campaigners or voters.

The Kenyan people, denied all these freedoms, continue to express dissent when they can. What would give more force to our calls would be Robin Cook's support.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH S. N. MATIBA,
Chairman, Ford-Asili Party,
College House,
University Way, Nairobi.
July 9.

No winners in Orange march debate

From Mr Liam Paul Murray

Sir, Your assertion (leading article, July 7) that Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Constable of the RUC, "was acting in the best interests of Northern Ireland's nationalists" is a curious one.

The decision to allow the Portadown Orange parade to pass along the Garvagh Road was justified on the grounds that it presented the lesser of two evils. Whilst we will have to wait and find out whether or not this is true, such an assertion can only be seen as confrontational by republican terrorists. In short, they are being told that they do not pose as serious a threat to public disorder as loyalist terrorists. The twisted logic with which terrorist organisations greet such reasoning should be borne in mind before decisions are made.

Yours faithfully,
LIAM PAUL MURRAY,
8 Darlington View,
Stewarton, Ayrshire.

From Mr Hugo Charlton

Sir, The Orange Order must now accept that they obtained passage down Garvagh Road because of the threat of violence, and the threats of murder by the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) in particular. By taking advantage of the security climate resulting from such threats, they have publicly abandoned their claim to moral superiority over Sinn Fein.

Sunday's march may prove to have been an expensive outing when Unionists seek progress on decommissioning, as it is now clear what was always suspected — that, whether disowned or not, both sides have guns under the table, and whoever sits round it will have to talk regardless.

Yours faithfully,
HUGO CHARLTON,
1 Waterlow Road, N19.
July 9.

From Mr F. Laycock

Sir, In Captain Peter Kimm's impossible dream of tolerance and brotherhood along the Garvagh Road (letter, July 8) is the seed of sense which all thoughtful persons from both traditions in Northern Ireland know must be allowed to germinate before peace can be established.

To expect a massive adjustment in attitudes of the sort experienced by Captain Kimm in his dream is, of course, very unlikely. It is possible, however, that Orangemen might find the public flaunting of their tradition and allegiance less necessary if nationalists modified an attitude which seems to be very close to that of a man who beats up his estranged wife again to persuade her to live with him again.

Yours faithfully,
F. LAYCOCK,
5 St Swithin's Road, Dublin 4.
July 10.

From Mr Nicholas Wibberley

Sir, It is absurd that hunting should be a national government issue. It would be better devolved to parish councils. Not only is that the level where it matters but it would revitalise community debate. No doubt hunting would be banned in Islington.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS WIBBERLEY,
East Whidbey,
Landkey Road, Barnstaple, Devon.
whidbey@aol.com
July 10.

A Bill of Rights is not the answer

From Mr John Mackenzie

Sir, You report (July 5) that a Bill of Rights will be enacted by the end of next year, enabling people to seek justice in British rather than European courts for breaches of human rights.

I have been acting since 1990 for Alex Findlay, the soldier whose court martial was ruled to be in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights by the European human rights court on February 24, 1997. The Findlay case, as it progressed through the European human rights commission and court, was the primary cause for the introduction of the new court martial system by the Armed Forces Act 1996.

The court based its decision on the convening of the court martial by a general officer who was also the prosecuting authority and who appointed as the officers to try the case five officers serving under his command, of whom the president was one of his staff officers. I have always understood that the objection to a judicial figure being judge in his own cause was a fundamental principle of "natural justice" and contrary to English law without having to consider the European convention.

In December 1991 the Findlay court martial was the subject of review proceedings in the Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench Division on exactly this basis. Senior judges held that the matter did not merit leave to apply for judicial review. Contrast this decision with the position of the UK Government when the Findlay case reached the European court. The UK did not seek to justify the court martial, implicitly conceding that the Findlay court martial was indefensible.

The problem is not that the convention is not part of UK law. Most of the provisions in the convention are in English law in some form. The problem is the judges who go to great lengths to avoid disrupting state administration, particularly for some reason in matters involving the Armed Forces. A Bill of Rights is unlikely in itself to change anything, certainly not the number of applications to the court in Strasbourg.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MACKENZIE,
Sherate, Caleb & Co (solicitors),
54 Fleet Street, EC4.
July 6.

Hunting ban

From Mrs Mollie Woodbine

Sir, In saying "a ban on hunting ... changes forever the rhythm of rural usage" (leading article, July 10) you exaggerate the importance of country sports to the majority of country people.

I have lived in the country for nearly 20 years and get around my county quite a bit. The nearest I have come to a hunt is seeing an injured horse lying by the roadside waiting for the vet. It would be Heaven help most of us if we relied upon the hunt to "bring rural communities together". We are brought together by individual hospitality and neighbourliness, parish council work, the annual village dance, carol service, harvest festival, etc. And some of us are even daring enough to venture into towns for evening classes, concerts, theatheres and to visit our urban cousins.



COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE
July 10: Mr Walter Simpson, winner of the annual shooting event of The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, Royal Company of Archers, was presented to Her Majesty and received The Queen's Royal Warrant.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the garden of the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The Princess Royal, The Lady Saltoun and the Hon Elizabeth Ranson of Mar were present.

The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, Royal Company of Archers, under the command of the Captain-General, Major Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, the Gold Stick for Scotland, was on duty.

The High Constables of the Palace of Holyroodhouse were on duty.

The Lowland Band and the Band of the Royal Air Force College played selections of music. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness gave a Dinner Party this evening at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The following were invited: The Rt Hon Donald Dewar MP, the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, and Mrs Alexander McDonald, Sir Thomas and Lady Farmer, Professor John and Dr Elton Arbuthnott, and Mr and Mrs Allan Shiach.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning opened a new water fabrication plant at NEC Semiconductors (UK) Limited, Deans West Industrial Estate, Livingston, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Lothian (the Earl of Morton).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
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